Dudley
CHRONICLE

Thursday, November 16, 2017 | Read by more than 62,000 people | Price when sold 70p

LOLLIPOP PATROL IS UNDER REVIEW

Report by Clare Butler

CONCERNS have been raised over proposals to scrap lollipop patrols in Dudley and possibly replace them with 20mph zones outside all schools in the borough.

The suggestion in a safety review comes less than a year after controversial plans to axe funding for school crossing patrols were ditched by cash-strapped Dudley Council.

A new study has revealed that 70 per cent of the patrol sites do not currently meet national criteria, while chiefs have been urged to make 'advisory' 20mph zones outside all school entrances 'a high priority' as part of a package of safety measures.

A council report says: "It is recommended that the council's 10-year plan to implement advisory 20mph zones outside all school entrances, under the safer routes to school scheme, should be made a high priority."

The study, carried out ahead of a meeting, reveals that 55 out of 79 school crossing patrol sites in the borough are not hitting national guidelines, giving bosses a case to remove them.

Risk

The report says: "The national criteria for school crossing patrols (SCP) is widely accepted and does enable councils to provide substantial satisfactory evidence and justification to remove a SCP where the site does not meet the criteria, without putting children at risk."

It was reported that only 35 per cent of parents who responded said they relied on the patrols to provide a safe crossing for their child.

But Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We know how important school crossing patrols are to some people. We want to see the school crossing patrol service continue to encourage children and families to walk to school rather than jump in the car.

"The outcomes of the studies we have carried out will be considered by a scrutiny working group in order to identify what options we have for continuing to provide a service into the future."

Abdul Quadas, a former school governor from Lye, said: "I would like to see lollipop ladies saved. It is a cut culture."

Labour's Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We need crossing patrols in the right places. I hope we always put children's safety first."

FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN TRIBUTE TO CHRIS AT BRIDGE

Family and friends walked to remember Chris Brookes, including his partner Sarah Jayne Collins, who is expecting their baby in January

HEARTBROKEN family and friends of a Dudley man who fell to his death from a bridge gathered at the scene in tribute.

Chris Brookes fell from a bridge over Wolverhampton's ring road on the night of October 28. In memory of the 22-year-old, friends and family walked from Dudley to the Wolverhampton scene of his death, raising £1,000 toward his funeral and a memorial bench.

Among those on the walk was his partner Sarah Jayne Collins, who is expecting their baby in January. She said: "The support we had on the day was amazing. Chris was the perfect gentleman, and you could see that by the amount of people who came along, not just his family.

"Now is a difficult time as we prepare for the funeral, but I'm determined to stay strong for our baby."

She revealed that the baby will be named after Chris, adding: "Chris always liked the name Chris Junior, and I'd always say I'm not naming him that. But it would be a perfect way to honour him."

The walk started in Hillside Road in Dudley, where Chris's family is from. It finished just before midday at the footbridge between the city centre and railway station.

Chris's parents Pauline Room and Phillip Brookes were also there as were his step-mothers Julie Turley and Leanne Room along with brothers Craig and Josh Brookes and Declan Room, who wore football shirts with Chris' nickname 'Brooky' on the back. His sister Kelly Perry also took part. People wore T-shirts with Chris' name and picture.

The former Coseley School pupil, who worked at Elta Fans in Kingswinford, died after a night out with friends in the city.

ARREST

Murder investigation after man stabbed

A MURDER investigation is under way after a man was found dead in his own Black Country home with multiple stab wounds.

Police were called to Corngreaves Walk, Cradley Heath, at 11.45am on Monday where a 47-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene.

A 47-year-old man, from Tividale, was arrested on suspicion of a series of assaults at addresses in Dingle Avenue, West Avenue and Poplar Close. He is in police custody on suspicion of murder, attempted murder, wounding and vehicle theft.

Detective Chief Inspector Edward Foster, said: "I'm appealing for anyone who was in the Corngreaves Walk area at around 6pm on Sunday and saw or heard a disturbance to contact us.

"We have established a timeline and suspect three people were subjected to nasty assaults involving weapons, including a knife and metal bar, in the space of just over two hours. These are understood to be domestic incidents where the suspected attacker is known to the victims.

"It's then believed the same attacker stabbed a man in his home in Corngreaves Walk just after 6pm but his body lay undetected in the house until just before midday Monday. Police family liaison officers are supporting the deceased's family."

The suspect was arrested from a vehicle at the Asda car park in Oldbury by officers investigating reports of a stolen van.

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on the 101 number.

LIGHTS

Roads will close for Christmas switch-on

SEDGLEY will have its first Christmas lights switch-on ceremony on December 3 at 6pm.

This will mean road closures with the High Street down to a single lane, Dean Street closed and Ettymore Road partially closed to accommodate market stalls.

There will be an entertainment stage hosted by Black Country Radio, 4 to 7pm.

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NHS worker fined for breach of privacy

A HOSPITAL worker has admitted disclosing private details of patients' medical records.

Clair Francis, who worked as a coding officer at Dudley Group NHS Trust, accessed her friend's medical records dozens of times and also disclosed information about a baby.

Ms Francis, 38 of Slater Close, Cradley Heath, was fined £780 at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court.

District Judge David Webster told Francis: "They are despicable offences which were a breach of trust. I hope you are ashamed of yourself."

Ms Francis, a mother-of-two, pleaded guilty to two offences of knowingly or recklessly obtaining personal data between July, 11 2005 and November 24, 2014.

Prosecuting, Miss Rachel Pennington said Ms Francis accessed the data of her friend, Trisha Ghaley-Rose, around 56 times. Ms Ghaley-Rose was her neighbour and friend but the court heard their relationship has since broken down.

She had complained to the trust that she believed her records had been accessed and an investigation began.

The court heard Ms Francis left the trust in 2015 after working for them for 13 years. Since then she had gained new employment but was made redundant and is applying for Jobseeker's Allowance.

The judge said: "The offences to which you plead guilty to are offences which can only be punished by a fine. If more serious powers were available to the court I would be considering these. Often patients have to give doctors embarrassing personal information. They do so for the knowledge all is strictly confidential. When this is breached it strikes at the heart of patient and doctor confidentiality."

Defending, Mr Gerry Dahey said: "She pleaded guilty ahead of trial. There wasn't any financial motive."

Mike Shaw, group manager at Information Commissioner's Office Enforcement Group, said: "NHS workers who have access to personal information will, in the vast majority of cases, have received data protection training, yet we still see people ignoring that training and breaking the law."

Ms Ghaley-Rose said: "Knowing this information has been inappropriately accessed makes me feel immensely violated and vulnerable."

Members of £1.5m drug gang put behind bars

SIX members of a £1.5 million drugs ring in Dudley have been jailed for conspiring to deal heroin and cocaine across the Black Country.

The operation was based at a flat in Chapel Street, Lye, where drugs were weighed and packaged. Members had nicknames, roles, shift patterns and pool cars and claimed expenses.

A police expert who analysed ledgers seized from the HQ described them as 'the most meticulous and detailed records of drug dealing on this scale' they had ever seen.

Wolverhamptn Crown Court heard that it was from those documents the gang's turnover was estimated at around £1.5m over the 18 months they were active.

Ringleader, Lea Brown, aged 32, of Dudley, was jailed for 13 years after being convicted of conspiring to supply heroin and cocaine. He was given a further three years for unrelated drugs offences and two counts of dangerous driving.

HJason Isaarq, 26, from Brierley Hill, was sentenced to eight years and six months having pleaded guilty to the two conspiracy charges on the first day of trial.

Dealers

Street dealers Anthony Smith, 23, of Netherton, and Timothy Pascall, 22, of Dudley, were jailed for seven years and eight months, and seven years and three months respectively. Smith pleaded guilty to the conspiracy charges two days into the trial, while Pascall admitted the offences on its first day. Dealer Hammas Naeem, 23, of Lye was jailed for four years having only been convicted in relation to cocaine.

Ian Martin, 40, from Quarry Bank, was jailed for three years and 10 months. He divided the drugs into deal-sized amounts and kept the records. He admitted both conspiracy charges on the basis he was involved only until May 2016.

Prosecutor Mr Kevin Barry, said: "These were dealings on a significant scale geared towards large profits."

Bill comes out fighting for charity

Bill Etheridge MEP with Ross Brummell, of Dudley, at the Imperial Banqueting Suite, Bilston

HE is no stranger to putting up a fight on the political front but UKIP politician Bill 'the Beast' Etheridge, from Sedgley, literally pulled no punches when he stepped into a boxing ring to raise money for charity.

The Euro MP and Dudley councillor strapped on his gloves for the first time to raise funds for the homelessness charity New Roots, as dozens gathered at Bilston's Imperial Banqueting Suite on Saturday to see him take on Dudley's Ross Brummell.

Bill had been put through his paces at the Ultimate Fitness gym in Bilston. He walked into the ring to fight song 'Still Unbroken' by American rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Both men were congratulated at the end of the three-round exhibition match, which had no winner, with each handed a medal. The following day Bill said: "I've got some sore ribs but it was a great night. The lad I was up against was a lot more experienced than me, I think he took mercy on me in the last round."

Listed status to protect several war memorials

WAR memorials in the Black Country are set to be given Grade II listed status as part of First World War commemorations.

A decision has been made by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, on the advice of Historic England, to make the move as the sites reach their centenary.

The memorials include two from Dudley, with the Quarry Bank Peace Memorial and Garden at Stevens Park being given Grade II status, while the Stourbridge War Memorial at Mary Stevens Park moving up to Grade II* status from Grade II.

Respect

Sedgley councillor and UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge said: "I think it is brilliant that war memorials are getting the respect they deserve.

"They are the place where people can remember and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice so this news is welcomed."

Two Sandwell memorials, the Oldbury Cenotaph and Bearwood War Memorial, are also set to be Grade II listed.

Sandwell councillor Peter Allen, a member of Tipton Royal British Legion group, said: "This is very welcome because anything that can offer these sites protection and support is good news."

Online campaign against sex abuse

THE shocking reality of how abusers groom young people is the focus of a new campaign that has been launched with the backing of Dudley Council to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation.

The hard hitting animation from the regional see me, hear me partnership focuses on the warning signs of this hidden crime.

Following the story of a young girl, it shows how those around her notice changes in her behaviour. It then turns to the abuser who grooms her with gifts, alcohol and affection before abusing her, adding 'the warning signs were there.'

The animation will go out via YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter as 30 second clips with the full version available on the campaign website www.seeme-hearme.org.uk

Festive gifts at hall

A CHRISTMAS gifts fair is being held at Himley Hall, near Dudley, this Saturday and Sunday. The Countrywide Events fair is running in the hall and a heated pavilion from 10.30am to 5pm each day. Admission is £2 for adults, £1.50 for pensioners and free for under-16s.

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Club warned over future conduct after flare thrown

A FOOTBALL club has escaped punishment after a flare was thrown onto the pitch during a game but has been warned about the future conduct of supporters.

The flare was thrown from the Halesowen Town supporters section during an away match against rivals Stourbridge last month in the popular no9 derby at Stourbridge's War Memorial ground.

A woman in her 60s was hurt after being struck in the throat by a flare during the derby.

Halesowen Town said in a statement: "The Football Association has considered the matter and will not be taking any formal disciplinary action against the club on this occasion.

"However, we have been advised that the club could face disciplinary action if further reports of spectator misconduct are received and the FA will reserve the right to refer to this current matter in such circumstances.

"The club would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that supporters should be aware that any form of pyrotechnics are banned at football matches and use of these at a match is a criminal offence and can lead to ejection, arrest, criminal record and a banning order."

Halesowen Town won this particular match 2-1 thanks to two goals from Daniel Udoh. Ryan Rowe replied for Stourbridge.

Football legends play for keeper

FORMER stars of Albion and Villa have agreed to dust off their boots in a benefit match for ex-goalkeeper Derek Dudley, who is terminally ill at the age of 47. He spent four years at Villa in the 1980s and also played for the Baggies.

Members of Villa's 1982 European Cup-winning side Gordon Cowans, Nigel Spink, Pat Heard, Tony Morley and Peter Withe will line up alongside Albion heroes Richard Sneekes and Bob Taylor in the Midlands Legends team taking on Romulus Veterans at Sutton Coldfield Town on Sunday.

Former Villa men Julian Joachim, Darren Byfield, Lee Hendrie and Tony Daley will also be in attendance.

Admission is priced at £3 for adults; £1 children; and a family ticket is £5.

Bedsits rejected

PLANS to turn a former Coseley pub into a house of 17-bed multiple occupation have been refused by council bosses. The proposal for the Rollers Arms, in Foundry Street, was refused on the basis of insufficient parking.

Proud moment for new standard bearer

Stuart Garlic takes over as standard bearer from Ron Green-

YOUR town needs you – and Stuart Garlick has answered the call.

The former military man has volunteered to become the new standard bearer for Brierley Hill after 85-year-old Ron Greenfield was no longer able to perform the duty after 10 years of service.

Mr Garlick, aged 59, from Kingswinford, will now hold the flag and lead Remembrance parades in Brierley Hill and at military funerals.

Mr Greenfield issued a plea through the Express & Star and Mr Garlick, who served as a trooper in the Queens and Mercians Warwickshire Regiment, was happy to help.

He said: "We should not be able to forget the history of the world wars and other conflicts.

"I do feel quite strongly about it, it needs to carry on year after year. British legions are suffering, numbers are down and if we didn't do something like this they would die out."

It will be a proud moment for Mr Garlick, who served in Northern Ireland and Gibraltar in the 1970s, when he leads the town's Remembrance Day procession on Sunday.

He said: "I feel a little nervous. I really don't want to let Ron or anyone else down. It was quite emotional for me, this guy has been doing it for years and years."

Police will share town centre council offices

DUDLEY'S police station is to close by the end of the year with officers moving into a new base in the town centre.

The police station will relocate from New Street into Dudley Council offices in St James's Road.

It brings to fruition cost-cutting plans by West Midlands Police to close and sell off the current station, which closed its front desk last year.

In total, 13 police stations in the Black Country have closed or are to close as part of the move saving the force £8.6 million.

Stations have already closed in Kingswinford and Stourbridge. The buildings, in Moss Grove and New Road, are now up for sale.

Once the police team has moved out of the Dudley station it will also be put up for sale, confirmed the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson.

He said: "I am pleased that we are retaining a base in Dudley town centre. By moving in with the council this will enable closer working on important issues to keep the people of Dudley safe."

Leasing

The move has been welcomed by Dudley Council leader, Councillor Patrick Harley who said the details were being finalised.

He explained: "Police are leasing part of our building in St James's Road from early December, which is a fantastic way to use some of our surplus space, by bringing in partners. We are just finalising the details of that lease but look forward to collaborating with West Midlands Police and welcoming them to our building."

Officers currently stationed in the New Street police station, built in 1939, will relocate to the council office opposite Dudley Town Hall. The front desk at the station was closed last year despite a 2,000-signature petition to keep it open.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin presented the petition to Parliament. At the time, he said: "It would be completely unacceptable for the police not to have officers based in the town and available for local people."

We will remember them...

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, lays a wreath as Dudley honoured its war dead on Sunday

MORE than 3,000 people came to Dudley on Sunday to pay their respects at the annual Remembrance Sunday parade and service.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, laid a wreath at the memorial in Coronation Gardens.

Members of the community, civic dignitaries, students from Dudley College and cadets gathered for the event, which included a parade through the town with armed forces veterans and a service at the cenotaph in Ednam Road. The Salvation Army band and Dudley Performing Arts students performed.

The mayor said: "It has been a privilege to lead our commemorations to honour the fallen and remember the sacrifices they made to protect future generations. We owe them our freedom."

Am Armistice Day service was also held on Saturday at the Clock Tower in Priory Street.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lottery players get free museum visit

THE Black Country Living Museum will offer free entry to National Lottery players on Saturday.

Museum bosses are making the offer as a show of thanks to the lottery, which has provided millions of pounds in funding for its major revamp.

Visitors will have to show a lottery ticket for draws between November 13 and 26 to gain entry.

Heritage Lottery has so far awarded almost £10 million to the museum, funding plans to expand the site by a third, including the creation of a 1940s-60s town.

Jobs lost as firm in administration

MORE than 30 jobs have been lost after a steel firm went into administration.

The entire workforce at Kingfisher Industrial Management in Cradley Heath has been laid off, administrators have revealed. It is believed that 36 people have been made redundant.

Administrators RSM Restructuring Advisory LLP said: "Damian Webb, Phillip Sykes and Diana Frangou from RSM Restructuring Advisory LLP were appointed as Joint Administrators of Kingfisher Industrial Management Limited on October 9, 2017."

Drug dealing near school is reported

AN investigation has been launched after reports of drug dealing near a school.

Haybridge High School in Hagley confirmed that an incident took place outside of school hours and off the premises. A spokesperson for the 1,276-pupil school said: "There is an ongoing school investigation, following correct procedure, and it would be inappropriate to comment further at this time. We would like to reassure all students, staff and parents/carers that the safety and wellbeing of our students remains our top priority."

Santa is special guest at church festive fair

YOUNGSTERS will get a chance to visit Santa and Rudolf in their grotto at a Christmas Fayre being held at a Sedgley church next Saturday.

The event will be held 10am to 1pm at St Andrew's Church, in Bilston Street, on November 25.

Stalls include crafts, cakes, toys and bric-a-brac, refreshments will be available.

Proceeds go to church funds and charities.

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COUNTY NEWS

Family meals are 'rare occasions'

FAMILIES in the West Midlands are being urged to spend more meal times together after research found they barely spent more than once a week together.

Furniture and flooring firm SCS commissioned a study which has found that one in five families sit down to eat together less than once a week.

The study of 1,000 parents found two out of three families don't sit together to eat every night with 13 per cent saying they only sit around the same table for special occasions. Long or late working hours were often blamed.

Gig donations help Charlie book costs

MUSIC acts and performers will be taking to the stage for a fundraising gig with a Black Country flavour on Saturday in Langley.

Brian Dakin, whose goes by the stage name Billy Spakemon, is showcasing acts from his Omma N Chain radio show at the Zion Reform Church Hall, in Langley Green Road, Langley, from 1 to 4pm in a free admission concert.

The Buskin' For Charlie event will be raising funds for a book Billy is writing on the life of Halesowen cartoonist Charlie Grigg, who drew famous comic characters including Desperate Dan and Korky the Cat.

Grandparents do even more to help

THE extent of grandparents providing childcare in is much higher than previously thought and is a factor in assisting mums, who had taken time out from work to have children, to get back into the workplace, according to new research carried out at the University of Birmingham.

The study in the Journal of Social Policy, found grandparents were the first named source of after school and weekend care for 36 per cent of school entry year children for lone parents.

Satriani joins guitar greats for a super-jam

GUITAR virtuoso Joe Satriani will entertain fans in Birmingham next year.

The American rock icon, aged 61, will play alongside former Scorpions' guitarist Uli Jon Roth and Dream Theater guitarist John Petrucci. Each will perform their own set, followed by a massive jam at the end of the show.

The G3 concert will be at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on April 30.

Restoration of loco is steaming ahead

THE restoration of a steam locomotive which was once based at Stourbridge has taken a big step forward.

The locomotive No. 4150, a Great Western Railway 'Large Prairie' tank engine, was built at the GWR workshops in Swindon, but was based in Stourbridge for six years from the summer of 1947

Now it has had its boiler removed ready for overhaul and the installation of newly-fabricated tanks and bunker – in hope of getting back into action on the Severn Valley heritage line.

During its time at Stourbridge, the engine worked passenger and goods trains to Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Worcester, and along the Severn Valley line through Bewdley where the boiler lift took place.

Owners of the loco are The 4150 Fund, a group of hundreds of steam enthusiasts, many in the Stourbridge area who have bought shares in the engine .

A spokesman said: "The fact that the panels and parts fitted perfectly onto the locomotive's frames was due in no small measure to the quality of the work done by local firms, with a special mention for Accurate Section Benders of Kingswinford and BB Price Engineering of Halesowen."

Locomotive No. 4150 being restored

Food mountain boost for Christmas appeal

THE Feed A Family This Christmas appeal has been given a huge boost, thanks to an anonymous donation of more than 1,200 items.

Hundreds of tins of soup, vegetables, meat and fish have been handed over to the appeal run by The Chronicle's sister daily the Express & Star, as well as dozens of bags of pasta, rice, noodles, snacks and biscuits. Baby food and cereal also make up the massive donation of 1,240 items, which filled three cars when it was collected.

It has been given to the appeal by a Staffordshire community association which wanted the food to help struggling families in the run-up to the festive season.

The food will be now be distributed along with other donations to food banks and other charitable organisations across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

The anonymous donation includes 60 packets of cereals, 100 tins of soup, 250 tins of beans, 60 packets of dry pasta and sauce, 40 packets of biscuits, 40 packet sauces and 100 tins of tomatoes.

Charities

There are also 50 tins of meat, 100 tins of vegetables, 100 tins of fish, 40 packets of snacks, 70 packets of tea bags, 30 assorted baby foods, 100 packets of pasta, 60 packets of dry and microwaveable packets of rice and 40 packets of noodles.

Among the charities being helped is the Black Country Food Bank, which has centres across Dudley.

Group head of weekly titles Diane Davies said: "This is an absolutely amazing contribution, we are incredibly grateful. It has really got the Feed a Family campaign off to a flying start. What a fantastic, kind-hearted gesture.

"But I can't emphasis enough how much pressure there is on food banks and homelessness charities at this time. We really want to help the families in our communities, particularly over Christmas. So I would urge all our readers to support this campaign, even if it's just with one tin of beans, so we can bring a little Christmas cheer to those who really need it."

Former Emmerdale star Lisa Riley, who will be appearing in Jack and The Beanstalk at Wolverhampton Grand, and Stourbridge antiques expert Will Farmer, have already backed our campaign,which is running until December 16.

Drop-off points are: Express & Star Wolverhampton, 51-53 Queen Street, WV1 1ES; Express & Star Cannock/Walsall office, Queen Square, Cannock WS11 1EA; Oldbury office: Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, B69 2DG; and there is a drop-off box for donations at Waitrose Wolverhampton, Penn Road, WV2 4NJ.

Reporters Jordan Harris and Heather Large with helper Phil Beecher and the huge amount of donated food

Sixth form college no longer rated 'outstanding'

A PRESTIGIOUS Black Country sixth form college has lost its 'outstanding' rating following an inspection by the education watchdog.

King Edward VI in Stourbridge was downgraded from 'outstanding' to 'good' by Ofsted after an inspection on October 3. But the college was praised by inspectors for its 'high ambitions for students who arrive promptly and readily to learn'.

The report highlighted how 'too many of the most able students did not achieve the grades they were capable of, despite the actions of leaders and managers'.

It also stated: "Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and a very strong understanding of the requirements of the A-level course and assessments. Teachers prepare students well for the examinations.

"Teachers support students well to develop independent learning skills. Students have the confidence and skills to learn effectively inside the classroom and are well prepared for higher education.

"Students' attendance is high. They arrive promptly and ready to learn. They make good progress in a broad range of personal and social skills."

Ofsted highlighted room for improvements, stating: "Senior managers do not provide sufficient support for students who wish to progress directly into employment and training.

"Students do not understand British values well enough."

King Edward VI had 2,116 students, aged 16 to 18, studying at the college at the time of inspection.

Special brew for Darby monument

A BREWERY is raising money toward a project to create a monument in memory of a pioneer of the industrial revolution in Dudley.

Holden's Brewery in Woodsetton is bringing out a special beer with 10 per cent of sales being donated to the Abraham Darby First Project Fund.

The fund is behind a monument for the Woodsetton area in tribute to 17th century iron founder Darby. From a Woodsetton Quaker family, Darby developed a method of producing pig iron in a blast furnace fuelled by coke rather than charcoal, which fuelled the Industrial Revolution. His grandson commissioned the famous Iron Bridge in Shropshire.

The label for the beer is being designed by borough artist Steve Field, with a design for the monument.

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Axed market will return run by new operators

A STREET market will return to Stourbridge after new operators were found.

Tudor Markets will bring stalls back to Stourbridge from March and a Christmas Market for the town by the firm which also runs Dudley Market.

The market closed in September after former bosses LSD said they could not continue to run it following a change in policy by Dudley Council, which they say amounted to a 850 per rent rise.

Natalie Mashhadi-Marshall, business developer for Tudor Markets, said: "We aim to give Stourbridge the best experience possible and we want to let people know that we will be bringing it back with an official launch in March. We are in the initial stages of planning but we know that having the market come back means the world to the people of Stourbridge. We want it to be the focal point of the town centre again."

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, licensing boss, said: "People have been coming to Stourbridge for a market for many years and we recognised the importance of doing everything we could to continue that popular tradition, especially in the lead up to Christmas.

"We will have a traditional market in the town as part of the Christmas light switch-on, and markets throughout the festive period."

Dead mouse in school kitchen

A PRIMARY school closed its kitchen after environmental health officers found a dead mouse and droppings.

The discovery was made at Priory Primary School in Dudley following a visit by the health team from Dudley Council. The kitchen was closed after the visit on November 3 but it was anticipated that it would re-open last Friday.

Jill Craig, headteacher, said: "I would like to reassure parents that we are taking the necessary action to address concerns raised by environmental health." Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We are working with the school, which is putting the necessary measures in place to resolve the issue as quickly as possible."

Pub help Pudsey

CRADLEY Heath pub The Waggon and Horses is holding a free admission event to raise money for Children in Need on Saturday, including barbecue and music, from 2pm.

Badgers stop play as pitch dug up

Badger bother – The Dell stadium

BADGERS have stopped play at a Black Country football club after digging up the pitch.

Dudley Town FC's home games last Saturday and Wednesday night were cancelled after the animals had chewed the turf at The Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill.

Officials declared the surface as unplayable, saying that the problem had been going on for the past 10 weeks.

Last Saturday's match against Hereford-based Wellington FC in the West Midlands League was called off after a 10am pitch inspection. The same happened again with Malvern Town on Wednesday night.

Dudley Town chairman Stephen Austin, explained: "We have never experienced anything like this before. We have had problems with Canadian geese and foxes but we have lost our last games as a result of the damage it has caused.

"It's been ongoing for about 10 weeks but has progressively got worse. They are a protected species so there is little that we can do, but the council are working tirelessly.

"We have been trying to look for other local places we can play but its not that easy. It is concerning that the games have been called off but we hope the matter will resolve itself."

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: "We are having problems with badgers, who are digging into the surface of the pitch at the Dell to get at earthworms and other insect larvae and causing damage. Badgers are a wild animal and as such are protected by law, but we are making every effort to protect the pitch, including strengthening and securing fencing."

Reckless pair's race cost young mother her life

DANGEROUS drivers who killed a young mother during a race at almost 80mph have been jailed for a total of 14 years.

Joseph Chance and Dylan Stringer have been locked up for the fatal crash which killed 19-year-old Nadine Foster.

Former Dudley College student Miss Foster, 18, was a front seat passenger in a Ford Focus, driven by boyfriend Stringer, when it hurtled into a bus shelter and wall in Hagley Road, Stourbridge.

Nadine Foster – died aged 19

The former Pedmore Technology College student died in hospital four days after last year's tragedy, leaving behind her then five-month-old son.

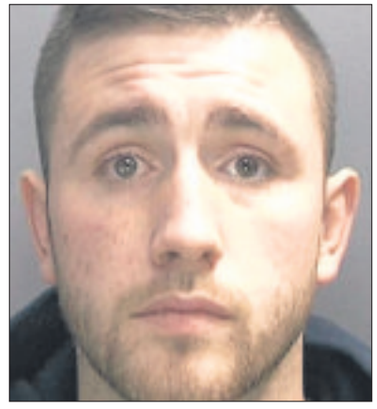
Sentencing the two at Wolverhampton Crown Court, Judge Michael Challinor condemned them for driving without insurance and licences after swigging alcohol.

He handed Chance, 25, of Murcroft Road, Stourbridge, an eight-year prison term and jailed Stringer, of Wychbury Road, Stourbridge, for six years.

The judge said: "Long after you are released, the catastrophic effects of what you have done will continue to echo down the years for the family of Nadine Foster."

Chance previously admitted driving dangerously and denied causing Miss Foster's death but was unanimously convicted by jurors last month, while Stringer pleaded guilty in January.

Jurors heard the men were with Miss Foster and Chance's ex-girlfriend in the Chicago Rock Cafe before leaving just after midnight on April 16., 2016.



Dylan Stringer – put behind bars for 13 years

Joseph Chance – jailed for eight years

Chance was driving his Renault Clio ahead of Stringer's car as they both flouted the 30mph speed limit and overtook another vehicle on Hagley Road. There were just two seconds between the cars as they reached 78mph before Stringer's vehicle crashed.

Stringer had lost control of his car when he swerved to avoid an oncoming vehicle as he tried to overtake a car. Chance had completed the same manoeuvre just moments before.

Ban

Witnesses described seeing the cars 'racing' immediately before the crash.

Chance was handed a 14-year driving ban and Stringer, 24, was disqualified from driving for 13 years.

Nadine was left with catastrophic injuries after the passenger side of Stringer's car, where hNadine was sitting, took the brunt of the crash.

Chance had blamed Nadine for distracting him by pinching his leg and causing the collision. He later refused to be interviewed.

Judge Challinor told the men they were equally culpable for the crash, with Chance setting the pace for a race.

Chance, 25, who had a provisional licence but no insurance and MOT, was found guilty of death by dangerous driving. Stringer, 24, who had no licence, no insurance and no MOT, admitted death by dangerous driving.

DC Jamie Simon, said: from West Midlands Police's Collision Investigation Unit, said: "Chance and Stringer chose to race their vehicles at more than double the speed limit, having both consumed alcohol, at the time it was dark and it had been raining. They did this with a blatant disregard for the laws of the road

"Their reckless and stupid actions cost a young mother her life."

"Her son, who was five months old at the time, will know never get to know his mother."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tree and lights switch-on date

THE bosses of Dudley Market will be staging a Christmas lights switch-on in the town centre on December 2. Tudor Markets will light up the stalls and a Christmas tree will be brought back into the market place.

There are 63 traders at the market now, six days a week.

Natalie Mashhadi-Marshall, business developer, said: "Things are going really well. There has been a huge increase in traders since we took it over and the council seem happy with us. We will also be bringing a Christmas tree back to the town centre, which we will sponsor, and will be having a light switch on December 2."

Council investigate after man trapped

AN investigation into an incident which saw a man buried under a pile of refrigerated goods in a warehouse has been launched by Dudley Council.

A spokesman confirmed the local authority is investigating the accident which saw a four-hour rescue operation take place to free a 54-year-old worker at Central Supplies in Saltbrook Road, Cradley,

The worker and the forklift he was driving were buried under piles of goods. Fire crews launched a rescue operation to free the man, who was treated in hospital.

Business award for dance school

A DANCE school run by 27-year-old Kennedy Glews has won Outstanding Business of the Year at the Midland Business and Community Charity Awards.

The University of Wolverhampton student won praise for her The Kennedy School of Dance. Ms Glews, of Kingswinford, who has owned the school for four years, said: "I've owned the dance school for four years now and we have 150 students of all ages, teaching tap, acro and modern dance. I work with an amazing team and they all work very hard."

Chance to meet Green Duck brewer at pub

A WORDSLEY pub is holding a meet the brewer night.

Head brewer of Stourbridge's Green Duck Beer Company, Alex Hill, will be at the Lawnswood in Lawnswood Road tomorrow night (Friday).

He will be talking about the brewery and how its wide range of ales are made.

There will be a chance to try four Green Duck beers including Winter Berry Stout.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Pay rise? I shouldn't get your hopes up

HERE'S something to give you a warm glow on these bitter, cold mornings. Next year we will all get bumper pay rises.

How do I know? The governor of the Bank of England says so. A report by Mark Carney says pay rises next year will be "clustered around 2.5 to 3.5 per cent".

The obvious question is how can he possibly know this?

If the figure had been produced by Kim Jong Un, it might have carried a bit of weight. After all, he and his cronies are the ones who decide how much everybody in North Korea gets paid. Although I suspect in North Korea, "clustered around 2.5 to 3.5 per cent" probably means "500 per cent for Kim Jong Un and an extra bowl of rice for everyone else."

Mark Carney, though, has no control whatsoever over the pay rises people get. About the only influence he has is chairing a committee which meets occasionally to set interest rates.

His forecast is based on a survey of major employers, but I really don't think chatting to a few captains of industry represents the 4.6 million people in the UK who are self-employed. Or the 60 per cent who work for small and medium-sized businesses.

Mr Carney, you might remember, predicted instant economic meltdown if Britain voted to leave the EU. Well that was 17 months ago and we're still waiting. And of course, the pollsters forecast a comfortable referendum victory for Remain, an easy win for Hillary Clinton, and a landslide for the Conservatives in the summer. Probably best not to spend that pay rise yet, then.

❒❒❒

JUST when you think you have heard it all, Highways England is now carrying out an experiment with traffic lights on the motorway, where the M6 meets the M62 in Cheshire. This is on top of the regular 40mph speed limits we have all become accustomed to along the M6. Why not just stick a few speed humps in and be done with it?

❒❒❒

MEANWHILE, 22-year-old university graduate Eddie Ledsham has quit as a trainee teacher, saying he was left "crying his eyes out" by the workload. His grievances include not getting home until 6.30pm, working through lunch, and thinking about work while on the train.

He also said his colleagues criticised him when he did wrong, but didn't praise him when he got things right.

And they wonder what we mean by "generation snowflake".

More rockets in explosive week at parliament

Chris Grayling, surely on the wrong track when looking at the future of transport

Michael Fallon, whose fall from grace sparked the media's use of an archaic saying

Yorkshire vet Julian Norton, as seen on Channel 5, with dog slobbering highlighted

When fireworks fun sparks elderly fears

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

A READER in her 80s who suffers from an irregular heartbeat describes her local bonfire night as "every bit as frightening as the bombings over my home town in the 1940s . . .screaming rockets soaring noisily above my garden and then exploding with such force the front window shook. . . little dogs screaming in terror, my heart fast and painful."

NOW, you may think comparing Bonfire Night with the Blitz is over the top. But I remember interviewing an old chap in Birmingham whose nightly ritual at this time of year was to build his own little air-raid shelter under the kitchen table where he cocooned himself and his dog against the detonations of other folks' fun. He, too, compared Bonfire night to the war. Simple question: in the name of having a good time, how much of a thoroughly bad time are we prepared to inflict on others?

"WE'VE seen nothing in our lifetime that can compare with the motoring revolution that's just around the corner." So says Transport Secretary Chris Grayling on the advent of driverless cars. And yet there's one massive transport revolution happening that no-one in Whitehall seems to want to see. It is a train in a tube called Hyperloop which its Los Angeles makers claim will cruise at 600 mph. Meanwhile Britain is plodding ahead with HS2, an unaffordable £100 billion exercise in using 20th century technology to update a 19th century concept to serve 21st century commuters.

AFTER taking up cudgels and leaving someone in the lurch, here's another ancient expression that's long overdue for modernising. When Michael Knee-Toucher Fallon was sacked as defence secretary, the media agreed his was the first scalp in Westminster's sex scandal. Scalp? For goodness' sake, how long is it since American Indians gave up scalping people?

AS Parliament agonises about the latest rash of sex scandals, one reader wants to make the point that not all victims of sexual assault are scarred for life. As an airmen in the RAF at the age of 19 and 20, he was regularly stripped and groped by about a dozen older women at the local laundry. Far from complaining, he recalls it was "rather empowering, being an object of lust or desire." No wonder some blokes recall National Service so fondly. The key word in all this, of course, is consent. By coincidence, another male reader writes to say he's still traumatised by the "initiation" he suffered as an apprentice at an engineering works in the Black Country, courtesy of the women from the machine shop. They stripped him and smeared his nether regions with engineering grease. He recalls nothing but "anguish, pain and suffering."

THERE'S a modern trend for couples to combine their surnames when marrying, sometimes to preserve the bride's maiden name and sometimes just to look posh. But there are risks. A Daily Telegraph reader recalls a couple who, despite the urgings of their friends, declined to become double-barrelled. Which is perhaps as well. She is Carr and he is Parkin.

THE Yorkshire Vet (C5) introduced us to a particularly revolting habit – kissing pets. A woman repeatedly allowed her dog to lick her on the mouth. Do these owners never watch what their pets are up to? As they snog their cats and dogs in full view of the rest of us, do they ask themselves what was the last thing the animal was licking?

IN one of those little annual rituals that barely gets a mention in the media, bellringers all over England have been preparing for this sacred weekend of remembrance by fitting leather pads and straps to the clappers of their great bronze bells. This creates what is known as the "half-muffled" effect. If you ever wondered why the bells sound different on Remembrance Sunday, that's why.

THE timing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, was down to fate. Another victory or defeat on the Western Front could have brought the ceasefire forward to spring or pushed it back to mid-winter. As it is, remembrance sits very well with mid-November. The chilly closing-down of the year reflects the sad drawing-down of blinds in bereaved households. It wouldn't be the same if we gathered at the war memorial in shorts and T-shirts..

TALKING POINT

Bus travel: I just want to be left in peace

AS a regular bus user, my other half just loves to hear my tales of the daily journey to and from work (!).

Every day, she awaits my boring conversations like . . . "So this bloke sitting next to me said . . ." or "You know that woman on the bus?"

Like the time I waited more than an hour for the 154, but a 59, 89 and number 6 turned up and I calculated I could have caught all three of those instead. Mind you, I always bore her anyway.

But I digress. There is a serious side to this point. Remember Doug Paulley? He is the wheelchair user who, more than a year ago, opened a can of public transport worms.

The pensioner won a landmark Supreme Court case allowing bus companies to ask non-disabled passengers to vacate in favour of wheelchair users. He had begun his fight five years previously when he was left at a bus stop as a mother with a buggy refused to budge.

The ruling sparked a wheelchair versus buggies debate. Who warrants space? Who is the most needy?

Often we hear of passengers refusing to give up their seat for the elderly, or for pregnant women. My own view, is that in a day and age when many buses are full of mod-cons, like digital stop displays, CCTV, wi-fi and charging points, surely there is room for wheelchair users and buggies alike.

Many drivers have refused to get involved, saying they have enough to contend with keeping to routes and times and ensuring people pay.

Meanwhile, passengers, are told to 'see something, say something'. Very admirable, and of course if there is a serious incident, one would like to think that people wouldn't just sit in silence.

However, many of us just want to sit in peace, read the paper, listen to music and not disturb others. So, to that end, I have made my own list of what would make my bus journey more pleasurable.

Have money ready before boarding the bus and don't fiddle about looking for change when you step on; put the paper back in the rack, please; take rubbish with you instead of leaving papers shoved down the side of seats and bottles and cans rolling around; more importantly, I may appreciate your music, but you don't have to share it with me. Turn it down!

Oh, and why do some people insist on sitting by the aisle seat with their bags on the window seat next to them? Just budge over, for heavens sake.

MARK SHIPP

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Auction shows council incompetence

THE Brooke Robinson auction is yet more disturbing evidence of incompetence and lack of planning on Dudley Council's part.

First, against widespread opposition, they move the museum away from a place where people are likely to visit to a remote out-of-town location. Then they discover the Brooke Robinson Collection has to stay where it is, due to the terms of its bequest.

Then they find that despite immense storage capacity at the £7 million archives building they can't find room for the collection's items. So the solution is to sell off the most valuable items – but then buy new ones to replace them. Councillor Kettle's assertion that Dudley won't spend anything on the sale is very misleading – what about all the staff and legal services' time spent liaising with the Brooke Robinson trustees over the sale?

They now have a building in the town centre that was supposed to be sold after the museum moved out... now they can't and they want to display the Brooke Robinson collection in the town centre. So why close and move the museum in the first place?

MARTIN JONES
Sedgley

Their wives deserve a medal too

WE have read much of the bravery and dedication of our armed forces, home guard, munitions workers and others during WWII but I have never seen mentioned the wives of servicemen.

These women were left to raise children whilst subject to bombing and not knowing whether their husbands were alive or dead. They had to exist on a soldier's pay whilst some in protected occupations were striking for more money and feeding a black market.

In 1940, with father in the Army, my mother had four children under the age of 13, had three jobs and still managed to clothe, feed and spend valuable time with us.

God knows how she managed and stayed sane, but if anyone deserved a medal she and the women like her did.

BRIAN OSBORNE
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Time for a new EU vote, without deceit

THE realities of Brexit are coming to the fore. Should one wonder why when the vote to leave was based on emotional visions sensationalising unproven concerns. Images of hordes of immigrantswere used to maximum effect.

That the UK could take control of its own economic destiny, without the restraints of the EU, is proving to be a monumental error. Many leading corporations, economists, the EU itself, take a very pessimistic view of that ability, in the words of another Brexit slogan, 'To go it alone'. What is shameful is that large sections of the public were swayed to leave based upon falsehoods. Is it not time to hold another referendum based on reality and not deceit?

EDWARD DAVIES
Stourbridge

Government allowing a Paradise for tax evaders

THE 'Paradise papers' reveal the contempt with which the Tory government and their wealthy financial backers view the working class folk in our country.

The Government continues to 'legalise' tax evasion in the guise of 'tax avoidance', providing a framework within which it can work.

If a burglar stole your property, then produced a code of practice for burglary, would that absolve him from his crime? Of course not!

These people are stealing millions from our pockets. For every penny they take out, we have to put one back in.

It is time the Government got tough with tax dodgers.

If they decide to continue with this sham, we must remove them from power at the earliest opportunity.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

Keep walkies in the garden

I WAS sorry to read of the recent attack on Jill Boddy's dog (Chronicle Letters, November 9), but I must point out that it is very unlikely that any person's dog would be attacked if walked around an owner's rear garden.

DAVID AUSTIN
Lye

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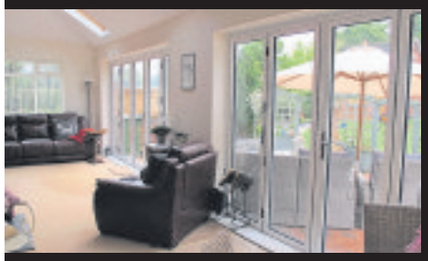

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Young Arwen gets the royal stamp of approval

Making her mark – schoolgirl Arwen Wilson, aged nine, from Dudley, with Prince Charles and Ted Lewis-Clark, 10

A SCHOOLGIRL from Dudley met Prince Charles to mark her success in a Christmas stamp design contest.

Arwen Wilson, from Dudley, created the snow people scene which is to feature on the 2nd class stamp this festive season.

Arwen's artwork will be on millions of Christmas card envelopes.

The St Chad's Catholic Primary pupil entered the Royal Mail competition. Her entry was chosen by Prince Charles and approved by the Queen.

The nine-year-old met the heir to the throne and was presented with a framed copy of her stamp – Snow Family.

The 1st class stamp will use a design by fellow winner Ted Lewis-Clark from Somerset.

A special postmark will also feature. Each child will have their name on the postmark for a week this month. Arwen's postmark will feature on mail delivered from Tuesday this week.

She won £1,000 in vouchers and £1,000 for her school.

Arwen Wilson's winning

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Tributes after sudden death of gardener, 27

Gardener Adam Greathead from Stourbridge was an inspiration to many with his skills and charity fundraising

ADAM Greathead was a natural gardener. He started his first allotment aged just 11 and began a business selling hanging baskets and plants at school.

His death aged 27 at his home on October 29 has shocked the community. An inquest is to be held. He was chairman of Wollaston Gardeners Guild, before that secretary of the West Midlands branch of the National Vegetable Society.

But he may be remembered for the gardens he created. One was a public garden called Duck's Pool in Stourbridge, which opened to raise money for charity. The other was John's Garden, the garden of Ashwood Nurseries owner John Massey, who appointed him as head gardener. An extension to that garden will be renamed Adam's Garden and will host charity events. The three-acre site behind the nurseries in Kingswinford, will open on February 10.

Promising

Mr Massey said: "There can be no doubt that Adam had the most promising future ahead of him and his death is the cruellest of blows, not only to me and the Ashwood team but to the world of horticulture. "We offer our deepest sympathy to his parents, John and Gay. Their loss is unimaginable."

Adam, who attended Hagley Catholic High School, was awarded the Princess Diana Memorial Award in 2005 for inspiring others. His funeral will take place at Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church in New Road, Stourbridge, on November 30, at 11am.

Firm thrills as order book hits £30m mark

SOARING demand for a Kingswinford company's hi-tech theme park rides has boosted its order book to £30 million.

By Simon Penfold

Orders have trebled this year at Simworx, on the Pensnett Estate, as it comes up with rides like its Immersive Tunnel that uses a 360-degree 3D screen up to 70 metres long with 4D effects such as water sprays and bubbles.

This year it has created an F1 racing experience at the Ferrari Land theme park at PortAventura World, near Salou in Spain, and the Kung Fu Panda Ride at Motion Gate in Dubai.

Simworx is receiving orders from China, Russia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Mexico for its 4D/5D effects theatres, 3D audio visuals and immersive experiences. It already supplies its technologically advanced rides to Drayton Manor Theme Park in Staffordshire, also Thorpe Park, Paultons Park and Shrek's Adventure.

Simworx's latest orders include a flying theatre for Hanoi in Vietnam – a ride that lifts seated visitors into a huge dome screen and gives them the sensation that they are flying. It has an order from an Indonesian theme park called Trans Studios to create the world's first media-based water ride by adding 3D audio visuals to a water flume ride. Now Simworx has signed a £46m strategic co-operation agreement with a major theme park developer in China to build three new rides a year for the next four years.

Terry Monkton, managing director, said: "I am thrilled with the recent growth in the business and the quantity of new orders we are receiving from international markets."

A £4.5m funding boost from the British Growth Fund enabled it to double the size of its factory and recruit more staff.

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Designer outlet to create 2,000 jobs

A DESIGNER outlet shopping centre that promises to create 2,000 jobs and attract £200 million of investment is being lined up for the Black Country.

The new 200,000 sq ft centre could be built on Lion Farm playing fields, just off Junction 2 of the M5 in Oldbury. It would feature top brand shops as well as cafes and restaurants.

Sports pitches would also be built nearby as part of the deal, part funded by Birmingham-based developer Jeremy Knight-Adams.

It is believed the additional jobs would represent a two per cent increase in employment in Sandwell while the development would bring a £200m investment to the area. As well as generating permanent employment, once complete, several hundred jobs would also be created or supported during the construction phase.

The development was first mooted in 2012 when an option agreement was made between the developer and Sandwell Council over the land. Sandwell Council's cabinet members were deciding yesterday (Wednesday) whether to grant the developer extra time to work on the proposals.

A full planning application could be isubmitted by autumn 2018.

Killer comedy to mark am-dram milestone

Lee Morgan-Salcombe, Carey Esthop and David Lavender in The Ladykillers, staged this week

THEY'VE been treading the boards for 70 years and now an am-dram group in Stourbridge is marking the milestone with a production of comedy thriller The Ladykillers this week.

Members of Enville Street Dramatic Society are launching a special 70th anniversary season with the play based on a classic 1950s British film which starred Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers.

The company was founded in 1947 by members of Enville Street Methodist Church. Neville Mole, an original member and now aged in his 90s, is still connected with the group as patron and committee member. He still attends as many performances as he can. His late wife Beryl and late daughter Angela were both members, as are his daughters Lin, Jane and Carey and grandchildren Sarah (now professional actress Sarah Thom), Tom and Becky.

Feature

Carey, Tom and Becky will all feature in The Ladykillers with Carey as Mrs Wilberforce, the elderly landlady who unwittingly rents a room to a dangerous gang of criminals.

The black comedy opened at Amblecote Holy Trinity Church Hall in Vicarage Road last night (Wednesday) and continues to Saturday, when there is a 2.30pm matinee as well as7.30pm performance. Tickets can be bought on the door or in advance on (01384) 356 600 or 07941 906 069, or via envillestreetdramatic.org.uk website.

German market opens

ONE of the largest Christmas markets in the UK returns to Birmingham from today (Thursday).

The Frankfurt Christmas Market, centred on Victoria Square, begins its five week festive stay in the city centre.

It will be opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Anne Underwood, who will also switch on the city's festive lights.

The Frankfurt Christmas Market – which celebrates its 18th year in the city – is organised by Birmingham City Council in partnership with Frankfurt Tourism and Congress GmBH, and sponsored by Fortem.

Concrete security barriers have been installed, following the attack on a Christmas market in Berlin last year. There will also be an increased police presence.

Sight-loss charity's lottery raises more than £150,000

A CHARITY for the blind and partially-sighted is celebrating after its lottery initiative, started 13 years ago, passed the £150,000 mark.

The funding for Beacon Centre for the Blind helps people in the Black Country with sight-loss.

Vikki Millichamp, communications and fundraising manager, said: "We are incredibly grateful to the generous support from our local community."

The Beacon Centre is in Sedgley and provides support and advice to visually impaired people across the Black Country. That is an area with more than 36,000 people living with sight loss – and this figure is predicted to double to some 72,000 by 2050.

The lottery, called the Goalden Gate Superdraw, sees people pay £1 per week. The profit goes to the charity. Vikki added: "The Goalden Gate Superdraw is a fantastic way to support our charity while being in with a chance of winning one of 60 cash prizes every week. They have 10 chances of winning and each week one lucky player wins the top prize of £1,000."

For more information call 01902 880 111 or visit beaconvision.org

Bedsits proposal for a former pub

A FORMER pub could be turned into 17 bedsits. But the proposals for the Red Cow, in Edge Street, Coseley, have raised concerns for a councillor.

Coseley East ward councillor Star Anderton said she feared the plans could also bring 'trouble to the neighbourhood' and 'anti-social behaviour'.

She said: "I don't think people will be best impressed. They might feel 17 is too much on one site."

The plans would see the former pub turned into 17 separate units as part of a larger house.

The apartments would be spread across the ground and first floor, while the building would also be extended to create more space. The plans have been submitted to Dudley Council and will be looked at planning bosses.

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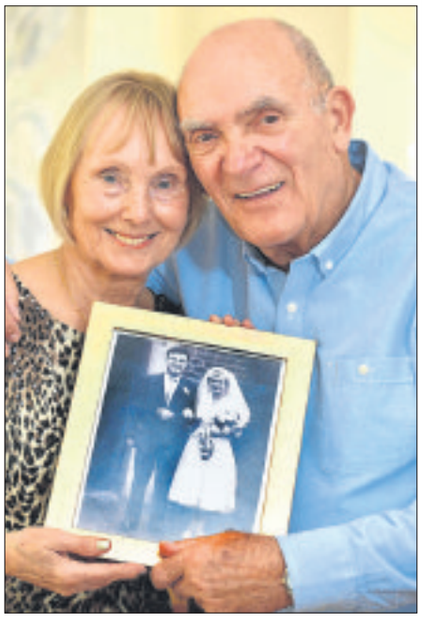

Albert and Inge Goodwin, both 82, with a photograph of their wedding day in the Black Country 60 years ago

THEY came from different countries but it was love at first sight for Albert Goodwin and his bride-to-be Ingeburg.

She came to Britain as a teenager, initially to look after the children of her sister, Hilse, a war bride from Brunswick in Germany, who had married a Black Country soldier.

Inge and Albert met at the Wordsley Gala in 1957 and married just four months later at Lye Church after a whirlwind romance. Now the couple, both 82, have celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Mr Goodwin, a retired petro-chemical engineer, says they had got married quickly as least in part because her work permit was about to run out.

Mr Goodwin said: "Her English was very good although I learned some German phrases when I went to meet her family."

Inge became a British citizen 25 years ago.

The couple, of Hawkswell Drive, Kingswinford, went on to have two daughters – Angela, now 59, and Heidi, 56 – and a son, Adrian, 53. They also have seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The couple, who are members of Dudley Bowls Club, celebrated their anniversary with family and friends.

No free jab for police

POLICE officers and staff in the West Midlands will not be offered the flu jab, despite fears of a possible epidemic this winter.

Chief Constable Dave Thompson said vaccinating staff had not had a major impact in the past.

Mr Thompson responded to a question from Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson at the latest Strategic Police and Crime Board meeting, who asked if there would be a 'three-line whip' forcing staff to get the jab. But Mr Thompson said: "Uptake was variable. The return on the investment in terms of the impact was not substantial."

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Five more masters from Dudley and Stourbridge

100 MASTERS

FIVE talented craftsmen and women from Dudley and Stourbridge have now been named in the hunt to find the 100 most talented and skilled Masters from the Black Country.

Creative Black Country, which set out to identify the 100 Masters, is trickling out the names of those who made the list and the latest batch includes some of the borough's favourite sons and daughters.

The public were asked to name people they know who are 'brilliant at what they do'. Hundreds of nominations were submitted for the June 30 deadline and now the 100 Masters list has been compiled.

Musician

All 100 masters will feature in a supplement in our sister paper the Express & Star soon. And many masters will appear at a special Festival of Masters event at Starworks in Wolverhampton on November 24.

Among those recently names is musician Clint Mansell. From bouncing around the Civic Hall stage to writing scores for some the biggest Hollywood blockbusters; the former frontman of Stourbridge band Pop Will Eat Itself has certainly had a diverse musical career. On meeting director Darren Aronofsky over two decades ago in New York the pair started a working partnership. With around 60 scores under his musical belt ,the composer's soundtracks can be heard on Oscar-nominated films like Black Swan and The Wrestler, Noah and Stoker.

Stourbridge author SJ (Steve) Watson

Hollywood composer Clint Mansell

Also on the list is author SJ Watson who started a writing course as a hobby, only for his novel to be picked up by Richard & Judy's book club and then turned in to a movie starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth.

Stourbridge-born author Steve Watson's debut novel Before I Go To Sleep was a best seller and won lots of accolades. He released his second novel Second Life in 2015.

Stourbridge-born scientist Kay Davies who has dedicated her career to finding a cure for muscular dystrophy and researching into the debilitating condition has been named as a master.

For mastering bus driving and fundraising, Stourbridge's Dave Gerrard has been a bus driver for over 50 years and every year he coordinates events to raise money for Russells Hall Hospital, the Royal British Legion, Macmillan Nurses and many others.

He has so far raised over £22,000 for charity in 15 years.

Dudley-born Liz Griffiths is named as a master for her set decoration. Liz has used her creative skills over the last 25 years to interpret scripts for film and TV and bring them to life in some of the most recognisable shows.

Her projects have included producing sets for Doctor Who, Hot Fuzz, Shaun of the Dead, as well as designing for the Hollywood big league with The Mummy and The Conjuring 2.

For details of all masters named to date visit www.100masters.co.uk website.

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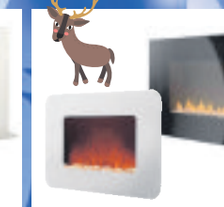

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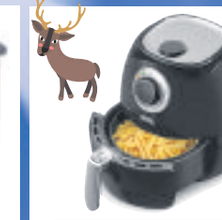

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Christmas in Dudley

Eric and Erica, the council's resident Christmas elves, have been pictured out and about

Dave Watson won gold and bronze at the Invictus Games

Coronation Street star Antony Cotton will be appearing in Stourbridge

Find the elves to light up your town

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas – and Dudley Council is offering four lucky people the chance to help switch the lights on in their town.

The local authority will be running four separate competitions on Facebook.

The winner of each, or their child, will be pressing the big button to illuminate either Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen or Brierley Hill at the big Christmas lights switch-on events this year.

Eric and Erica, the council's resident Christmas elves, have been snapped out and about in the four town centres. The pictures will be uploaded to the local authority's Facebook page – Dudley Borough – in the week leading up to each event.

To be in with a chance of winning, all people will have to do is like and share the post, and comment where they think the elves are. Winners will be drawn at random and will be able to either help switch the lights on themselves, or nominate a younger family member.

Councillor Ian Kettle, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We've got fun-packed family days planned in each of our four towns to celebrate switching on the Christmas lights and formally start the festive season. We would urge people to come along and to enter the competition – it's a great opportunity to play a starring role in a fantastic event."

The first switch-on event will be in Halesowen on Saturday, taking place in Somers Square from 9am to 5pm. The Facebook competition for Halesowen started last Friday, with a new picture being uploaded each day until a winner is announced tomorrow.

The winner will be switching on the lights, alongside Dave Watson, from Romsley, who won a gold medal and a bronze medal at this Prince Harry's Invictus Games this year.

Market

Organised in conjunction with Halesowen Chamber of Commerce, there will also be a Christmas market, a street food and drinks fair, free vintage children's rides, face painting and the chance to meet Santa. Car parking will be free.

On Saturday, November 25, the lights will be switched on in Stourbridge, with a day of entertainment along the High Street from 11am to 5pm. Coronation Street star Antony Cotton, best known as the soap's Sean Tully, will help to press the plunger on the lights.

He will stage a 'meet and greet' session in Chicago's, in the Ryemarket, during the afternoon. Details of tickets for the session will be announced in due course on the venue's Facebook page and website.

The Facebook switch-on competition will start on Friday, with the winner being revealed on November 23.

Organised in conjunction with Stourbridge and District Chamber of Trade and centred around Crown Square, there will be a Christmas market, children's rides, live entertainment and face painting.

On December 2, the Market Place and Stone Street Square will play host to the big lights switch-on in Dudley town centre, with entertainment from 11am to 5pm. The event in Brierley Hill will centre around the Moor Centre from 11am to 5pm on December 9.

The Facebook competition for Dudley will start on November 24, with the winner being announced on November 30, with the Brierley Hill one starting on December 1 and running until December 7.

There will be a Christmas market at Dudley, while there will be children's rides, a Santa's grotto and live entertainment at both the Dudley and Brierley Hill switch-ons. The Dudley event is organised in conjunction with Tudor Markets.

Car parking will be free on council car parks in the four towns on switch-on days, and Black Country Radio will be broadcasting from the Halesowen and Stourbridge events.

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Christmas in Dudley

Festive family fun on offer

Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone will be hosting its first ever Christmas tree festival this December.

Individuals, schools, businesses, groups, charities and organisations are being invited to provide a tree, decorated in the manner that best represents them.

Trees can be real, artificial or something in the 'shape' of a tree. The only stipulation is that they can be no taller than 5 foot.

The cone will provide electricity for one set of lights but battery operated lights are welcome.

Visitors to the site will be able to view the trees, find out a bit about their owners and generally get into the festive spirit.

It's free to take part, but those involved and visitors are welcome to make a donation to the mayor's charities at one of several donation points on site.

Those set to benefit are Dudley Mind, The YMCA and Dudley Alzheimer's Society. It will run from Saturday until Sunday, January 7.

To find out more or to take part call 01384 815571 or email julie.edmonds@dudley.gov.uk

There's a host of family fun on offer at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone this Christmas, including A Christmas Tree Festival, craft workshops and markets

Treats

The Christmas Tree Festival is just one of the Cone's Christmas treats.

Other events include a combined Christmas craft market at the White House Cone and Teenage Market at the Red House on November 25 and 26, where Santa and Mrs Claus will also be in attendance.

Santa will be returning to the Cone throughout December with youngsters able to meet him, receive a gift, do a craft and follow a trail. Pre-booking is essential. Groups are welcome. Sessions run between 11am and 3.30pm on December 9 and 10 and December 16 and 17, between 10am and 2.30pm on December 18 to 22 and between 11am and 3pm on December 23.

It costs £8.50 per child, £5.50 for babes in arms.

Children can have a go at making their own Christmas gifts with glass crafts and fusion sessions.

These will be held on December 2 and 3, with the chance to make Christmas decorations at the drop-in session which runs from 11.30am to 3.30pm costing £2.50 per child.

There are glass fusing sessions to make a glass Santa on December 9 and 10 at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm, costing £4.50 per child. Booking essential.

Adults aren't forgotten either with a Fabric Faffers session on December 1 where participants can make crafts with fabric and wire from 10.30am to 12.30pm costing £5.90. Booking required. The session is repeated at the new Dudley Museum at the Dudley Archives on December 8.

Decorations

Then back at the Cone there's a chance for adults to make Christmas table decorations on December 15 from 10.30am to 12.30pm, costing £5.75.

There will be glassblowing demonstrations at the weekends and during the Teenage Market and when Santa visits. Many of the Cone's studios will be open for business, selling unique Christmas gifts. There is a free gnome trail around the site and the Red Cone Coffee House will be serving a range of refreshments.

Cllr Dave Tyler, Mayor of Dudley said: "The Christmas Tree Festival is a delightful idea and will enhance the experience of visitors to the Cone. I'm really grateful that the Cone has chosen to support my charities as part of it's first Christmas tree festival and I look forward to seeing all the creative designs when I visit the site in December."

Cllr Ian Kettle, cabinet member for planning and economic development said: "There's always so much to do at the Cone, and Christmas is no exception. With the Christmas tree festival, Teenage Market, open studios, craft sessions for children and adults and visits from Santa, a visit to the Cone this December is sure to put people in the festive spirit."

The Red House Glass Cone, High Street, Wordsley, is open between 10am to 3pm from Monday to Friday and between 11am and 4pm at the weekends. The Cone will be closed on December 24 until January 3, 2018. Admission is free.

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Christmas in Dudley

David Baddiel appears in My Family: Not The Sitcom next year

Comedian Jason Manford is on the bill for next April

Joe Lycett: I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett

Whole host of treats for theatre-goers

There are treats in store for theatre-goers this Christmas with three shows at town halls.

There's a Swing Time Christmas matinee special on Tuesday, December 12 at 2pm at Dudley Town Hall.

Enjoy all of your favourite Christmas songs with the dynamic Big Band treatment from Glenn Miller, Sinatra, Basie and Nat King Cole. Featuring Simone from the Ivy Benson Orchestra and Chris Smith (Jnr), composer and arranger for the BBC Radio Big Band and Herb Miller Big Band (Glenn's brother).Tickets cost £12, booking fees apply.

Ballet Cymru will be performing their version of George MacDonald's A Light Princess on Saturday, December 9 at 7.30pm. Using elements of circus and outstanding classical choreography the story draws inspiration from Sleeping Beauty, telling the story of a princess afflicted by a constant weightlessness, unable to get her feet on the ground, until she finds a love that brings her down to earth.

This is a new full-length ballet with a new score by brilliant Welsh harpist, composer and recording artist Catrin Finch in collaboration with The Riverfront Theatre in Newport. Tickets cost £16 for adults, £10 for children, with a family of four at £44, Options+ £8. Booking fees apply.

Budding Elsas and Annas can get ready to belt out some showtunes with the return of the popular Sing-along-a Frozen at Stourbridge Town Hall on Thursday, December 21. Tickets cost £2.50 plus booking fees.

Unique

People looking for unique Christmas gifts could consider buying tickets to pop in their loved one's stockings for some of the big name shows heading to Dudley in 2018.

These include The Legendary Frontmen of Rock featuring Fran Cosmo (Boston) & Bobby Kimball (Toto) on Friday, February 2; Paul Chowdhry: Live Innit who is back for a second date on Friday, February 23 after selling out his first show in October; Dance to the Music featuring Kristina Rihanoff, Chris Maloney and many more on Tuesday, February 27; David Baddiel – My Family: Not The Sitcom on Thursday, April 19; Jason Manford: Muddle Class – on Friday, April 27 and Wednesday, October 3; Heather Small: The Voice of M People on Tuesday, May 8 and Joe Lycett: I'm About To Lose Control And I Think Joe Lycett on Friday, September 7.

Full listings and tickets are available at www.boroughhalls.co.uk

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Deck the halls and get festive

Christmas in Dudley

A classic red and white decoration scheme is fashionable at the moment

Tree is the centrepiece of your Christmas interior display

Inject some subtle hints of your festive colour scheme into your table setting

It's amazing how quickly it seems to come around. One minute you're re-boxing the decorations on a cold January afternoon and in the blink of an eye you're unpacking them for the next year's festivities.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but frankly, it can be hard work. For one privileged member of the family, the day itself often means playing host to a tirade of relatives expecting nothing less than the feast of the century. Will it stand up to last year's effort? Will the turkey put Auntie Mabel's legendary masterpiece to shame? The heat is up, and the pressure is most definitely on.

Aside from the cooking itself, preparing your home for the Christmas family invasion can be a big job. Presentation is key, and everybody wants to capture that perfect mix of festive feel and style with their decorations and table dressing. With this in mind, we've taken a look at some of this year's trends, to give you a bit of inspiration for the perfect setting to impress the relatives!

● Dressing the Table – If your Christmas roast is the rockstar of the day, then your dining table is the stage – and one that can make your dinner's 'performance' spectacular. A popular trend this year is to go for copper-coloured cutlery teamed with detailed glassware. This can add a charming and festive touch without over occupying that much needed table space, adding a subtle and stylish sense of occasion.

Upping the anti to the next level, try a combination of tall candles in your chosen festive shades with short white pillar candles. These again won't occupy too much space but will stop your table setting looking too one-dimensional. And for a true sense of occasion, multi-layering your china in each place with a plate for each course will add a sophisticated touch, and give you the opportunity to inject more subtle hints of your festive colour scheme into your table setting.

● Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree... The absolute centrepiece of your Christmas interior display. Everything about the tree is deeply personal – from the size and shape, to its placement, to the quantity and style of its decorations. For those who go for a larger tree, a popular tip for this year is to be relatively minimalist with any other decorations around the room. Your tree is larger than life; keep it the star of the show! A classic red and white decoration scheme is fashionable at the moment, though gold teamed with silver will give your tree a stylish look and should complement most interior decor schemes well.

As far as the lights, classic white bulbs are always a winner, and can be teamed well with illuminating coffee table or mantelpiece decorations that will more often that not feature white LEDs. If you do opt for a colour scheme featuring red however, a subtle string of red fairy lights around the tree can be a nice touch and can also soften any white lighting.

● Mantelpiece and wall decor – Many will argue that less is more, but it's mainly about keeping everything complementary. Quite a good way of tying the rest of your decor into your tree is to incorporate small off-cuts of the tree into your mantelpiece or table decorations – this can create a lovely natural festive look when teamed with candles or other lighting, and will carry the feel of your tree around the room. Wreaths and garlands always offer a classic and traditional festive feel, and many varieties are available, with varying thickness of foliage and adorning decorations and lighting. Just pick a theme with these and run with it – they are sure to bring the festive spirit alive.

Advertisement

They said they'd restore my smile, but they gave me back My Life

Predictably reassuring

WITH a memorable manly handshake, John Clews exudes a quiet, deep-seated confidence. Articulate, transparent and at times philosophical, he's sharply focussed on why he's agreed to do this interview: "I want to give people like me hope," he declares.

The die-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering – he's been helping to construct specialised aircraft parts for more than 46 years – but with multiple failing teeth, instinctively knew that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problem-solver.

For years, gum disease had insidiously invaded his mouth until toothache had become part of his daily routine.

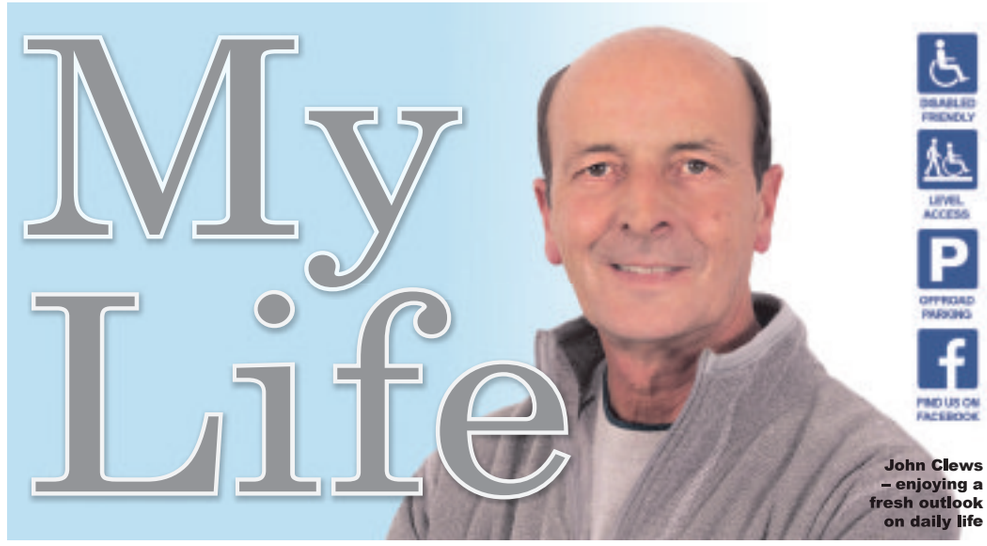
Not unusual

Intellectually, he knew he needed a dentist – and a good one – but gripped by a crippling fear he'd "pop the paracetamol" rather than face his demons.

"Fear is a terrible thing . . . I remember sitting in a dentist's chair and gripping the armrests so hard I pulled one of them off," John says.

"I came here and they promised to restore my smile, but they gave me back my life. It's true," he adds.

Practice principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC 108353 explains: "Periodontal disease is the biggest single cause of tooth loss in the UK and John's case is not unusual.



John Clews – enjoying a fresh outlook on daily life

"There is plenty of study that examines the psychological impact of troublesome teeth on our lives. But like the insidious nature of gum disease, it can happen slowly as we make small changes to accommodate oral decline. Eventually, however, as things become more acute we are less able to adapt."

Matters came to head three years ago when John's family booked a weekend break at the Brecon Beacons to do a waterfalls walk.

Adds John: "We take so many things for granted. We'd been walking a good few hours – we 'd had a lovely time – and we were all ready for something to eat. We came across a cafe serving bacon sandwiches. But they hadn't got any normal bread and the bacon was served with baguettes.

Lifestyle investment

"There was no way my teeth could have coped with the crusty bread so I ended up with a piece of cheesecake. I just so wanted a bacon sarnie, but my teeth had restricted my choice.

"That was it. At that point I decided to sort out my teeth.

"Too many times I'd go to a restaurant and look at 20 things on the menu and was only able to manage four of the choices. I'd really want steak, but I couldn't chew it: sometimes I just wouldn't go and eat out and I was always on my guard about smiling.

"And the toothache, the impact on daily living . . . it just drags you down and confidence wanes," he says.

> The implant teeth are great and I can eat whatever I want and go out for a meal whenever I want.

> *I'd go to a restaurant and look at 20 things on the menu and was only able to manage four of the choices.*

> It's a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it has made to my life is remarkable. It's a new kind of freedom.

> *All the staff were fantastic. I felt so much at ease. The people you meet here say a lot about the place.*

After having six implants in his upper jaw to support a complete arch of teeth and undergoing other remedial work, John is now able to live his life without having to worry about his teeth.

"The implant teeth are great and I can eat what I want, go out for a meal when I want and more than this . . . I've got my life back," says the keen carp fisherman.

Explaining he could have changed his car, John adds such an investment would be lost very quickly.

"This [the implants] has been a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it's made to my life is remarkable. It's a new kind of freedom." he says.

And his dental phobia? "All the staff were fantastic, I felt so much at ease."

The surgery was carried out by North Street's implant dentist Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576. Owain was in the vanguard of UK implant dentistry, placing his first in the late '80s.

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Christmas in Dudley

Scheme helps you stay warm

Householders across the borough can save significantly on their home energy bills with the right advice on appropriate tariffs, as well as energy discounts and grants

Dudley Council's winter warmth support scheme, which helped more than seven hundred residents keep warm and well in their homes last winter, has been launched once again for the coming winter and will now continue to run throughout the year.

The scheme aims to help people struggling to keep their homes and themselves warm enough during the winter months.

Householders can save significantly on their home energy bills with the right advice on appropriate tariffs, as well as energy discounts and grants. A variety of practical support, information and expert advice is provided through the scheme.

Anyone worried about keeping their home warm this winter, struggling with paying their fuel bills or concerned about keeping well at home during the winter due to the cold can ask for help from the scheme.

Advice

All sorts of help can be provided from expert advice and support with changing to the best energy provider and tariff, help with energy debt, as well as assistance with home energy efficiency improvements and grants, including access to free boiler and home insulation schemes.

Councillor Laura Taylor, cabinet member for housing, said: "Each year people die as a result of freezing winter weather and cold homes.

"Living in a cold home can lead to very serious health problems, particularly for older people, young children and people suffering from long term health conditions, such as asthma.

"It is essential that people start preparing for winter before the cold months set in.

"If people are concerned about heating their homes they should contact the scheme's helpline to ask for support and advice.

"We want to make sure that all our residents keep warm and well in their homes whatever the time of year – hence the extension of the scheme to all year round.

"I encourage anyone concerned about keeping warm at home themselves, or worried about a relative, friend or neighbour, to call the scheme."

The winter warmth helpline is 01384 817086. Call to request a free home visit.

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Parking fees will be suspended across council-controlled car parks on selected dates in the run-up to Christmas to help encourage shoppers to use town traders and attend switch-on events

Free parking offer to boost footfall

Shoppers will be able to take advantage of free parking in town centres on selected dates in the run-up to Christmas.

The council will be suspending parking charges on the Saturdays of December 16 and 23 on all council-controlled car parks.

There will be a further full day of free parking to coincide with Christmas light switch-on events.

This year, parking will be free throughout the day, for the light switch-ons in order to give people the opportunity to enjoy all the activities during the day, rather than just focussing on the main evening switch-ons as it has been in the past.

These are Halesowen – Saturday, November 18; Stourbridge – Saturday, November 25; Dudley – Saturday, December 2 and Brierley Hill on Saturday, December 9.

Proposals

Kingswinford and Sedgley will also have an additional free parking day on Saturday, December 9.

The proposals come on the back of the recent introduction of free parking for stays of up to one hour in all council-run car parks.

Council bosses intend to make free parking a permanent offer in the borough from next April, as part of the budget setting process.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We always offer free parking in our town centres in the run-up to Christmas in order to help boost footfall for our hard-working traders and to encourage people to support their local towns during the festive period.

"This year, we're planning to offer free parking all day on Saturdays to coincide with the Christmas lights switch on events for each of our larger town centres."

She added: "This, alongside our standard free parking for stays of up to one hour in all council-run car parks, is yet another way in which we are showing we have listened to businesses and shoppers to help make their trips to town as convenient and beneficial as possible."

For information on current parking tariffs in Dudley Council car parks people can visit www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/parking-roads for more imformation.

Christmas in Dudley

Call to reduce, reuse and recycle

Dudley's residents are being advised that household waste and recycling collections will be affected over the festive period.

Households will have altered collections between Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 and flyers detailing the changes have been delivered to all borough homes.

Details of the altered collections are also available on www.recycleforddudley.org.uk and by contacting Dudley Council Plus.

Waste and recycling should be placed outside for collection by 6.15am and residents are advised that collections may be earlier or later than the usual times during the Christmas period.

Residents are asked to ensure that the grey bin lid is shut and to not put out any additional sacks of waste as these will not be collected.

Additional free recycling blue/green bags and black boxes are available by telephoning Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345 for residents who wish to have additional recycling facilities.

Collection

Any additional, bulky waste can be collected via the council's chargeable bulky waste collection service.

The household waste sites, located in Stourbridge and Coseley, also recycle a large number of items including Christmas trees and unwanted electrical goods.

Both sites are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Here are a few handy hips to help keep your waste to a minimum this Christmas:

● Reduce – Do not over wrap gifts or try using a (reusable) Christmas stocking instead

Around a third of the food we buy is thrown away – try avoiding unnecessary purchases by using a list and checking cupboards and fridge freezers. For more tips go to www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

● Reuse – Don't forget to take your shopping bags with you when buying presents and food

Choose a tree grown in a pot so you can replant it and use it next year

Freeze food leftovers, these can come in handy at times when you can't be bothered to cook

● Recycle – Paper (including gift wrap), cardboard packaging and greetings cards can be recycled in your blue bag (no glitter or foil based paper, please take polystyrene out of boxes and fold them flat).

Plastic fizzy drinks bottles, plastic spray bottles and all types of tins and cans, including aerosols go in the green bag

All of your glass jars and bottles from cranberry sauce and mincemeat to wine, beer and even perfume bottles can be recycled in the black box.

Household waste and recycling collections will be affected over the festive period

The Green Box is for plastic bottles and tin cans

The black box is for glass jars and bottles

Financial help with festive bills

Castle & Crystal Credit Union is now offering local people loans of up to £1,500 to help with the cost of Christmas.

The credit union has increased the amount that people can apply for at Christmas to help steer them away from loan sharks and doorstep lenders in the run-up to the Christmas period.

Christmas loans of £250 to £1,500 are available and can be repaid on a weekly, fortnightly, four-weekly or monthly basis to suit people and must be repaid within a maximum of 11 months.

Castle & Crystal has already helped hundreds of residents to avoid expensive loans with payday lenders. Examples include offering a local nurse £1,000 to pay for extra training and helping a local mum with £1,700 to purchase a car to get her disabled son to school.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "Credit unions offer affordable loans as an alternative to payday lenders that can charge interest rates of up to 4,000 per cent and can lead to their customers being in more debt than they were before taking out the loan. I would encourage local people to opt for their local Dudley borough credit union this Christmas period, rather than choosing loan sharks and doorstep lenders."

To find out more on Castle & Crystal Credit Union please visit www.castleandcrystal.co.uk or call 01384 814771.

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The Ticket

BANANARAMA: THEY'RE REALLY SAYING SOMETHING

PAGE 2

THEATRE + MUSIC + TV GUIDE + PUZZLES

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Bananarama tour? We heard a rumour

It's been quite a year for Bananarama. Sara Dallin, Keren Woodward and Siobhan Fahey have been sweeping all before them – after Siobhan rejoined the band for a massive tour.

The singer had left Bananarama in 1988 to form Shakespears Sister, with whom she played until 1996. She then appeared in films and recorded music alone, as well as appearing with Dexys Midnight Runners, before agreeing to rejoin Bananarama in February this year for a major tour.

And the band's shows have been well received by fans who have relived their youth to such hits as It Ain't What You Do. . ., Really Saying Something, Shy Boy, Cruel Summer, Robert De Niro's Waiting. . ., and Love in the First Degree as well as the US number one Venus and other hits like Cruel Summer and I Heard A Rumour.

Bananarama had been formed by Sara, Siobhan and Keren in 1981. When Siobhan quit, Jacquie O'Sullivan joined and they enjoyed more hits with songs like I Want You Back and Help. Jacquie later left and Sara and Keren enjoyed success as a duo with Movin' On and More, More, More.

The band's achievements speak for themselves. They have enjoyed two Band Aid appearances, an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most successful female band worldwide with the most charting singles, all of which were international hits, four hitting the US Billboard Top 10 including a number one with Venus. To date they have had 32 Top 40 UK hits, released 10 albums and sold 30 million records.

TEENAGERS

The band formed when teenagers and childhood friends Sara and Keren met Siobhan. Sara and Siobhan were studying journalism at the London University of Arts (London College of Fashion) and Keren was working at the BBC.

About to be thrown out of the YWCA for 'keeping late hours' Sara and Keren bumped into ex-Sex Pistol Paul Cook in the club Taboo. He offered them a place to stay above the Sex Pistols' old rehearsal room. He ended up producing their first single Aie A Mwana. One early radio play from legendary DJ John Peel was all it took to catch the attention of ex-Specials singer Terry Hall, who tracked the girls down and asked them to perform on The Fun Boy Three single It Ain't What You Do.

They went on to support everyone from Iggy Pop to Paul Weller (Paul went on to pen a track for the band's first album) appearing on numerous TV shows while still being so skint they were using the baths at the local swimming pool for £1 a throw.

For the next 10 years the girls were everywhere and so were their hits. They became internationally hot property when hits Cruel Summer hit the US Billboard Top 10 with their video filmed in New York.

Identifying the right producers/collaborators at the right point in their career was always their strong point from Jolley and Swain who produced their debut album Deep Sea Skiving and follow up Bananarama to Stock/Aitken/Waterman who produced the platinum-selling WOW!, to Youth with Pop Life.

In 2005 they were picking out Swedish hitmakers Murlyn to produce the album Drama (singles Move In My Direction and Look On The Floor Top 20 UK, US Billboard dance number two) and in 2009 they found a perfect foil in Ian Masterson (Pet Shop Boys, Girls Aloud, Kylie) who produced the album VIVA.

Back in the day – Keren Woodward, Sara Dallin and Siobhan Fahey

Bananarama like the Go Go's and the Bangles were not a manufactured band but three friends who came from the London club scene with a punk attitude and were always in control of their own destiny.

In 2012 Bananarama have appeared in the hit ITV comedy Benidorm, they embarked to the US for the Pinktober tour at Hard Rock Cafes and released a brand new four tracks digital EP called Now Or Never. In February 2016, the girls embarked upon a successful Australian Tour, followed by a sold out Japan tour in October.

And now, the original Bananarama line up are back together for a string of live shows in 2017. It will be fans' only chance to see Sara, Keren and Siobhan live across the UK.

For the next 10 years the girls were everywhere and so were their hits

Keren was in a relationship with former Wham! star Andrew Ridgeley for 25 years, but they parted ways last year. Speaking about the break-up, she said things didn't always work out but they'd remained close friends and Andrew would be attending quite a few dates on the tour.

The biggest girl group of the 1980s were sworn enemies for many years but they reconvened for a barbecue at Siobhan's home in Bethnal Green. They rekindled their love and friendship and a few months later, Keren picked up the phone and told Siobhan she should go on tour with them. They had never actually done a tour, the three of them, together. Siobhan agreed and the rest is history.

See them perform at Arena Birmingham on Thursday, November 23.

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Andy and Paul of OMD

Nostalgia gigs aren't for us – despite the money

If ever there was a band that over-achieved, it was synth-pop pioneers OMD.

Duo from The Wirral, singer Andy McCluskey and keyboardist Paul Humphreys, sold around 40 million records including hit singles Enola Gay, Souvenir, Joan of Arc, Maid of Orleans and Locomotion.

Architecture and Morality, their 1981 hit album, gave them their first platinum disc while four others went gold. This autumn, McCluskey et al are up to their old tricks with the release of their 13th studio album, The Punishment of Luxury – which entered the chart at number four – and a tour including Birmingham Symphony Hall on Tuesday. And yet, for all their success, critics have always been a little sniffy about Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark.

Andy says: "The reality is that certain people still have attitudes and issues towards a band that plays synths. That's always been the way. So we've always just gone our own way and done better than people would have expected anyway. We are coming up to the 40th anniversary of a rolling musical accident.

"We suffered in the mid 1980s from not writing the quality consistently. I carried on without Paul in the 1990s, then we got back together and next year the band will have been together for as long as we were the first time round." Andy was determined that OMD would not join the nostalgia circuit, adding: " We were offered quite good money but we felt uncomfortable with doing just the nostalgia gigs. The whole ethos for us was to do something new."

Rock legend home gig is hottest ticket

The Black Country's resident rock god, Robert Plant, is back in action on home turf following the release of his new album Carry Fire.

On Monday the former Led Zeppelin frontman brings his Sensational Space Shifters to Wolverhampton Civic Hall for what is likely to be one of the region's best gigs of 2017. Of course, it's long been a sell out. Those lucky enough to have a ticket can anticipate a few Led Zep classics.

At Birmingham Arena tomorrow (Friday) Ian Gillan, Roger Glover, Ian Paice, Steve Morse and Don Airey assemble as Deep Purple with support from Europe. The same venue hosts powerhouse duo Royal Blood on Saturday and Depeche Mode's Global Spirit tour on Sunday. Then on Tuesday the city centre venue hosts James Blunt, enjoying a new lease of life after his Ed Sheeran collaborations.

Those that can't make the Plant gig could get some excellent consolation at a homecoming gig for Black Country blues rock sensation Joanne Shaw Taylor at the Symphony Hall on Monday.

Other major Wolverhampton Civic Hall shows see Placebo play their rescheduled October date on Tuesday, Goldie on Thursday (see below) and harmonious folk rock from Fleet Foxes next Friday.

Bilston's Robin 2 venue has a varied line-up with Liverpool disco favourties The Real Thing tomorrow (Fri), electro-rave-reggae outfit Dreadzone on Saturday, heavy metal heroes Tygers of Pan Tang on Tuesday and US blues singer Samantha Fish on Wednesday.

It's funk night at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow (Fri) with Icognito, Circus VIII and Trope, and the venue hosts folk rock veterans The Oyster Band on Tuesday.

Goldie returns with 'best of the best'

Home-grown drum 'n' bass pioneer Goldie will return to Wolverhampton next week for a concert as part of his nationwide tour. The show at the Civic Hall on Thursday, November 23. Of The Journey Man tour, named after his new album, Goldie says: "This will be one of a kind: a culmination of everything past, present and future in my music, like it has never been heard before, live. I've got the absolute best of the best on stage with me and we're going to create something new right in front of your eyes."

A Christmas Carol and lots of laughs

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, particularly at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre where a popular amateur company is bringing A Christmas Carol – The Musical to the stage from Tuesday to Saturday. Bilston Operatic Company's production sees Charles Dickens' classic tale of Scrooge given a musical makeover. Tickets are priced from £12. For more information visit www.grandtheatre.co.uk website or call 01902 429212.

Comedy highlights include Jimmy Carr at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday and Daniel Sloss, one of a handful of British comics to find success in America, at Wolverhampton Slade Rooms on Sunday. Sean Lock brings his Keep It Light show to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Wednesday (Nov 22) and Paul Chowdhry is at the Wulfrun Hall next Friday.

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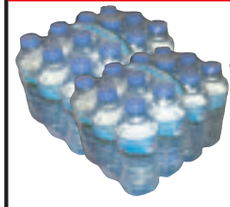
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SATURDAY'S TV NOVEMBER 18

CHOICE

Michael McIntyre

Michael McIntyre's Big Show (BBC1, 8.10pm)

Do Ant and Dec finally have a rival for the crown of 'Best Saturday Night TV Host'? When this show first aired as a one-off Christmas special in 2015 and then a full series last year, the critics and public were skeptical, especially considering some of BBC and ITV's lacklustre recent efforts at weekend entertainment shows. However, McIntyre has not only proven that variety is alive and well, but also that he is a pretty fine host and entertainer. Tonight he returns to London's Theatre Royal on Drury Lane for the third run of his Big Show. After his own new stand-up routine, he introduces comedy with Joe Lycett, and music by chart-topping Scottish singer-songwriter Emeli Sande.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigella: At My Table. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Rugby League World Cup. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. Wales v Georgia (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme. **5.40** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Hannah Waddingham, Gemma Whelan, Jeff Rawle, Chris Rankin, David Dixon, Sandra Dickinson, Norman Lovett and Hattie Hayridge take part in a sci-fi and fantasy edition of the quiz.

6.45 Strictly Come Dancing. The star-studded dance contest reaches its most dazzling annual milestone, as the eight remaining pro-celebrity duos depart from London and head north to the Lancashire coast, where they put their skills to the test against the iconic backdrop of Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman open proceedings by introducing a grand-scale group performance, in which the couples are joined on the dancefloor by judges Shirley Ballas, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Craig Revel Horwood. Already a glamorous affair, Strictly turns the dial well and truly up to 11 for its yearly trip to the northern resort town, with even more glitzy sets and routines that push the performers to their limits. With the grand final now only a month away, the stars once again face the judges' scrutiny ahead of yet another elimination.

8.10 Michael McIntyre's Big Show. New series. The comedian's family entertainment show returns, as Emeli Sandé and Joe Lycett perform, and former Labour MP Ed Balls plays Celebrity Send to All.

9.10 Casualty. The day of Charlotte's christening arrives, and Robyn is dumbfounded when she bumps into Glen – her terminally ill ex-fiance – who Dylan has been secretly preparing for a reunion.

10.00 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches.

11.50 The NFL Show.

12.20 Film: Man on the Moon. (1999) **2.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **7.00** Nature's Weirdest Events. (R) **7.30** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. **8.00** Deadly 60. (R) **8.30** Show Me What You're Made Of. **9.00** Saturday Mash-Up! **11.00** Natural World: Tiger Dynasty. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) **1.00** Italy Unpacked. (R) **2.00** Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. The opening semi-final of the singles competition. **4.30** Mastermind. (R) **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. Scotland v New Zealand (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.30 International Rugby Union. England v Australia. Lee McKenzie presents action from the autumn international at Twickenham, where the hosts were looking to continue their fine run against the Wallabies. With commentary by Sara Orchard and Brian Moore.

8.30 Dad's Army. Jones buys black-market pigeons from wheeler-dealer Walker – but is horrified to discover the birds were taken from Trafalgar Square. Comedy, starring Clive Dunn and James Beck. (R)

9.00 My Country. A TV adaptation of the National Theatre production of the same name, written by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and director Rufus Norris. Compiled in the days following the Brexit vote, using testimonies from people aged nine to 97, the play interweaves real interviews with speeches from party leaders, as Britannia – a personification of the nation itself – calls a meeting to listen to the opinions of her people. Amid passionate debate, barbed rebuttals and divided perspectives, she seeks an answer to the question of whether there can ever be a true United Kingdom.

9.55 QI XL. Extended edition of Sandi Toksvig's debut as host, in which Alan Davies, Cariad Lloyd, Romesh Ranganathan and Phill Jupitus answer questions associated with the letter n.

10.40 David Gilmour: Live at Pompeii. Highlights of the guitarist's concerts at the ancient Pompeii amphitheatre in Rome in July 2016, featuring songs from his solo career as well as several Pink Floyd favourites.

11.40 Film: Spike Island. (2012) Drama, starring Elliott Tittensor.

1.20 Film: Badlands. (1973) **2.50** This Is BBC Two. **4.30** Live Rugby League World Cup.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.00** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.20** Gino's Italian Coastal Escape. (R) **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **11.55** The X Factor Live. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Cheltenham. **4.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **4.30** The Harbour. (R) **5.00** The Cruise. (R) **5.30** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.05 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)

6.50 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates more comedy mishaps submitted by viewers, including a fireball exploding over a family, and a toddler managing to fire a champagne cork into his mother's eye.

7.15 Ninja Warrior UK. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara host the fourth heat, as competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in the obstacle-course challenge. (R)

8.10 The X Factor Live. The talent show enters its fourth weekend of live eliminations, while two acts battle it out for another "money-can't-buy" prize, the least popular could face elimination.

9.40 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by comedy star Peter Kay, The Hobbit and Beauty and the Beast actor Luke Evans, and actress and singer Sheridan Smith. Last in the series.

10.40 ITV News; Weather.

10.55 Film: First Blood. (1982) A Vietnam veteran escapes unjust imprisonment and flees into the wilderness, where he fights the law on his own terms. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone.

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Triathlon: Challenge Aruba. **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** The Big Bang Theory. **8.55** The Big Bang Theory. **9.25** The Simpsons. (R) **9.55** The Simpsons. (R) **10.25** The Simpsons. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. (R) **4.30** Best Laid Plans. **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Volatile Earth: Killer Hurricanes. The documentary series exploring the impact of past natural disasters concludes with its most recent example, the Great Hurricane of 1780. Claiming the lives of almost 28,000 people across the Caribbean, the Great Hurricane is thought to have been the most deadly in recorded history, and scientists pick through the debris left behind to paint a picture of the scale, speed and ferocity with which the storm would have hit the woefully unprepared islands. Last in the series. Previously seen on More4.

8.00 First Humans: The Cave Discovery. Documentary following the discovery of fossilised remains in a South African cave that were revealed to have come from a previously unknown species of human ancestor. (R)

9.00 Film: Lucy. (2014) A courier is kidnapped and forced to become a drug mule. When she is exposed to the experimental chemicals she is smuggling, it boosts her intelligence and reflexes to superhuman levels. She uses her newfound abilities to get revenge on her captors, but as the process continues, she evolves into something more than human. Sci-fi thriller, starring Scarlett Johansson and Morgan Freeman.

10.45 Film: R.I.P.D. (2013) A cop killed in the line of duty is recruited by a ghostly police force assigned to battle evil spirits. Fantasy adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Jeff Bridges.

12.35 The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.25** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.30** Access. **11.35 Film:** Christmas Truce. (2015) **1.20 Film:** Deck the Halls. (2006) Christmas comedy, starring Danny DeVito and Matthew Broderick. **3.05 Film:** A Belle for Christmas. (2014) Family adventure, starring Dean Cain. **4.05** 5 News Update. **4.10 Film:** A Belle for Christmas. (2014) Concluded. **5.00 Film:** Christmas in Homestead. (2016) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Taylor Cole and Michael Rady.

6.00 5 News Update.

6.05 Film: Christmas in Homestead. (2016) Concluded.

7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. In West London, agents Max and Cona chase up more than £2,000 in unpaid parking fines, while officers in Lancashire try to collect £4,000 owed for unpaid nursery fees. (R)

7.55 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Gareth and Mitch are in north Devon with a writ to recover more than £8,000 owed by a dissatisfied customer to a supplier of windows and doors. In Nottingham, Stewart and Vic are on an eviction that will test their patience to the limits, with a landlord who wants his property back after months of rent arrears and alleged anti-social behaviour. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Reading v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Queens Park Rangers v Aston Villa.

9.55 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from Leagues One and Two, including Rotherham United v Shrewsbury Town and Wigan Athletic v Bradford City.

10.25 NCIS: New Orleans. The team investigates when a private plane crashes in a bayou, Gregorio tries to decide whether to stay in New Orleans or return to Washington.

11.20 NCIS: New Orleans. The team investigates when a Navy Seal candidate is killed weeks before his graduation, and LaSalle tries to avoid an old flame.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Haunting of Briar House. (2015) **4.40** Access. **4.55** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Natural World **8.00** The Mekong River with Sue Perkins **9.00** I Know Who You Are **12.15** The Vietnam War **1.15** Top of the Pops: 1984 **1.50** Natural World **2.50** The Mekong River with Sue Perkins **3.50** Close

ITV2

12.15 Take Me Out **1.30** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.00 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.00** FYI Daily **3.05 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.50 Film:** Step Up (2006) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00 Film:** Step Up (2006) **6.00 Film:** Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** Jack the Giant Slayer (2013) **8.10 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **9.10** FYI Daily **9.15 Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **10.25** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **1.00** American Dad! **1.55** Release the Hounds **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.00 Film: Columbo: The Conspirators (1978) **1.00** Foyle's War **3.00** Midsomer Murders **11.05** The Syndicate **12.15** Foyle's War **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.35 The Big Fish Off **12.35** Shed and Buried **2.35 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **5.55** Hornblower **7.55** River Monsters **9.00** An Audience with Billy Connolly **10.05 Film:** American Gangster (2007) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10 Film:** American Gangster (2007) **1.10** The Sweeney **2.10** The Classic Car Show **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 How I Met Your Mother **12.00 Film:** The Dog Who Saved Christmas (2009) **1.50** Toy Story Toons: Small Fry **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The Mechanic (2011) **10.50** Gogglebox **12.55** Naked Attraction **2.00** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.20** Rules of Engagement

Film4

11.00 Song of the Sea (2014) **1.00** Picture Perfect (1997) **3.05** Just Wright (2010) **5.05** Rio (2011) **6.55** Dante's Peak (1997) **9.00** Darkman (1990) A scientist is left disfigured by a criminal gang and seeks revenge on those responsible. Thriller, with Liam Neeson and Frances McDormand. **11.00** Aliens (1986) Lone survivor Ripley joins a military expedition that encounters hordes of the creatures that wiped out her crew. Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Sigourney Weaver and Michael Biehn. **2.05** Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010) **3.50** Close

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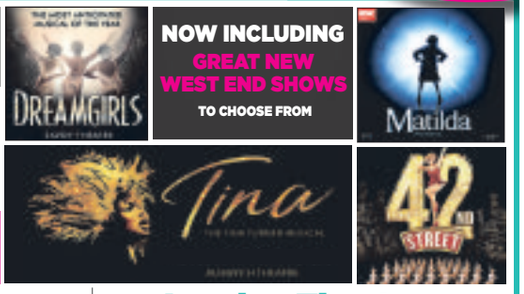

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SUNDAY'S TV NOVEMBER 19

CHOICE

Ant & Dec

I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!
(ITV, 9pm)
New series. Ant and Dec present the celebrity survival challenge, as another batch of famous faces are flown out to the Australian jungle, where they can look forward to completing the usual round of tough daily tasks and dreaded Bushtucker Trials until one of them is chosen as this year's king or queen. At the time of going to press, no contestants have been confirmed, but whoever is brave enough to take up the challenge will face the toughest journey to the camp that the series has ever featured - plus several brand new surprises.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** BBC Newsroom Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Regional Programme. **1.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Children in Need: The Best Bits. **4.50** Blue Planet II. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 Countryfile. The rural affairs show visits Hertfordshire, where Charlotte Smith makes the acquaintance of a man who has made it is mission to save the barbel in the Old River Lea. Sean Fletcher build a home fit for a kingfisher, and John Craven revisits his scouting days by cooking on a woodland fire. Plus, Adam Henson tours an estate where "rewilding" and farming sit side-by-side, and Tom Heap examines the science behind culling, as the contentious badger cull enters its fifth year.

7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show before another couple leaves the contest. Featuring music from Alfie Boe, Michael Ball and Tears for Fears.

8.00 Blue Planet II. Wildlife that live thousands of kilometres from land, featuring footage of baby turtles using debris as life rafts and sperm whales hunting for squid deep beneath the surface.

9.00 Howards End. A death is followed by an unusual final request that throws the deceased's family into confusion. The Schlegels face eviction from their home, which is due to be demolished.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the day's only Premier League match, featuring Watford v West Ham United at Vicarage Road.

11.15 Ronny Chieng: International Student. Professor Dale is impressed at the badminton skills of Ronny and his friends, and forces them to play for the college's Australian rules football team in a crucial game.

11.45 Michael McIntyre's Big Show. (R)

12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

7.30 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Food & Drink. (R) **11.30** My Life on a Plate. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** International Rugby Union. (R) **2.00** Rugby League World Cup. **3.30** Wild Brazil. (R) **4.30** Coast. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals. Sue Barker presents coverage from day eight at the O2 in London, featuring the final of the singles competition. Last year's showpiece match saw Andy Murray win this title for the first time in his career following a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Novak Djokovic, which also meant he would end the year as the number one-ranked player in the world. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

9.00 Britain's Cycling Superheroes: What Price Success? The controversy surrounding Britain's international cyclists, examining how Dave Brailsford and Shane Sutton have led the nation to a run of recent successes in both the Olympics and the Tour de France, even as their methods have suffered criticism.

10.00 Snowfall. Franklin must make a dangerous choice, Teddy tries to find out the truth about Logan's death, and Lucia makes Oso a full partner – without telling Pedro. Guest starring RZA.

10.40 Mock the Week. Dara O Briain and Hugh Dennis front a special edition of the topical comedy show featuring best bits and unseen material from the series. (R)

11.10 Film: The Lighthouse. (2016) Premiere. Two men are assigned to keep a lighthouse on an island in the Irish sea in 1801. A freak storm cuts the island off from the mainland for months on end, and the isolation drives both men to the brink of madness, with devastating consequences. Fact-based thriller, starring Mark Lewis Jones and Michael Jibson.

12.50 Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Newcastle, with panellists Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry, former Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron, novelist Val McDermid and journalist Rod Liddle. (R) **1.50** Holby City. Oliver is determined to win funding for his chest wall reconstruction project. (R) **2.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ben 10. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Make It Pop. (R) **9.00** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Australian Wilderness with Ray Mears. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.05 Film:** Carry On Screaming. (1966) **12.55** ITV News; Weather. **1.05** The X Factor Live. (R) **2.35** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.30** Elton John: The Nation's Favourite Song. (R)

6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Mark Billingham, Aldo Zilli, Lucy Pargeter and Joey Essex pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.

7.30 The X Factor Live. The fourth weekend of live shows comes to a conclusion, with the remaining acts competing to impress the audience and the judges and retain their place in the contest for another week. Presented by Dermot O'Leary.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! New series. Ant and Dec present the celebrity survival challenge, as another batch of famous faces are flown out to the Australian jungle.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston and Allegra Stratton. (R)

12.00 Gone to Pot: American Road Trip. Linda Robson, Pam St Clement, Christopher Biggins, John Fashanu and Bobby George go on a road trip across America to explore the pros and cons of legalising marijuana. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Kevin Can Wait. **6.25** Kevin Can Wait. **6.45** Kevin Can Wait. **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie's Quick & Easy Food. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00 Film:** Mr Popper's Penguins. (2011) Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **4.50** Channel 4 News. **5.20 Film:** Men in Black II. (2002) Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones.

7.00 Messages Home: Lost Films of the British Army. Documentary about filmed messages made by British soldiers serving in Burma during the Second World War, which were recently recovered in a Manchester Town Hall basement. The footage features messages from the soldiers to their families at home, including a father speaking to a daughter he has not met, a decorated veteran troubled by the thought of killing, and a gunner longing to return to the woman he loved. (R)

8.00 Guy Martin's WWI Tank. The presenter builds a working replica of a First World War tank to mark the centenary of the Battle of Cambrai, and takes his tank driving test so he can take his creation on to the streets for Lincoln's Remembrance Day parade. He also delves into the history of the earliest armoured vehicles, the soldiers who crewed them, and the women who built them.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.00 Film: Atonement. (2007) A girl accuses her sister's lover of a crime he did not commit, unaware her actions will have tragic repercussions. Romantic period drama, starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy.

1.15 The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds. Cameras follow playground friendships, romances and rivalries. (R) **2.10** The Supervet. (R) **3.05** Grand Designs Australia. (R) **4.00** Gillette World Sport. **4.25** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.55** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R) **5.20** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **5.35** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.35** Wissper. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.30** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.50** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.25** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.50** Cruising With Jane McDonald. **12.10** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **12.40 Film:** Chasing Christmas. (2005) **2.20 Film:** Santa Who? (2000) **3.25** 5 News Update. **3.30 Film:** Santa Who? (2000) Concluded. **4.10 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) **5.10** 5 News Update. **5.15 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. (2003) Concluded.

7.00 Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud. Iain Lee presents Christmas-themed videos that have taken the internet by storm in a seasonal special showcasing hilarious online clips with a festive twist. (R)

8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the eighth round of matches, including Gloucester v Saracens, Exeter Chiefs v Harlequins and Leicester Tigers v Sale Sharks.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Happy 90th: Ken Dodd In His Own Words. Profile of the comedian, incorporating some of his best performances alongside rare archive interviews and contributions from friends, colleagues and fellow comics. (R)

11.05 Happy 90th: Another Audience with Ken Dodd. The frantic Merseyside funnyman entertains a star-studded audience. Among those attending are Claire Sweeney, Martin Clunes, Gary Rhodes, Ann Widdecombe and Ricky Tomlinson. (R)

12.20 Britain's Best Double Acts. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.00** My Mum's Hotter Than Me! (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Stunning Soloists at the BBC **9.00** Shark **10.00** Country Music Awards 2017: Highlights **11.00** Rich Hall's Countrier Than You **12.30** Country at the BBC **1.30** Stunning Soloists at the BBC **2.30** Shark **3.30** Close

ITV2

1.00 Take Me Out **2.15** You've Been Framed! Top 100 Animals **3.15 Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** Happy Feet Two (2011) **5.20 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.10 Film:** Inception (2010) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15 Film:** Inception (2010) **10.15** Family Guy **10.45** I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp **11.45** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.45** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3

1.20 Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25 Film:** Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **3.55 Film:** Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder (1978) **6.00** Wycliffe **7.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** The Syndicate **10.10 Film:** The Theory of Everything (2014) **11.15** FYI Daily **11.20 Film:** The Theory of Everything (2014) **12.35** The Knock **2.35** Mr Selfridge **3.25** Wycliffe

ITV4

1.30 ITV Racing Live at Cheltenham and Fontwell Park. **4.00 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Alamo (1960) **7.15** Football's Greatest: George Best **7.30** River Monsters **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Cliffhanger (1993) **11.15 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **1.20** River Monsters **1.50** The Avengers **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Made in Chelsea **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00 Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **2.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011) **10.05** Naked Attraction **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** Gogglebox **1.05** First Dates **2.10** Rude Tube

Film4

1.00 Thunderbirds (2004) **2.50** When Marnie Was There (2014) **4.55** Letters to Juliet (2010) **7.00** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **9.00** Exodus: Gods and Kings (2014) **11.55** Legion (2010) **1.55** Lovelace (2013) **3.50** Close

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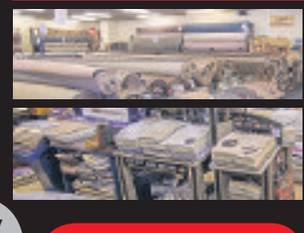

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Nanny for Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An unemployed advertising executive gets a job as an au pair and tries to give the kids in her charge a break from their rigidly organised lives. She tries to impress an executive she is attracted to by claiming to still be in the advertising business, a deception that proves hard to maintain. Romantic comedy, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Richard Ruccolo. (2010)

TUESDAY
Dear Secret Santa, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman receives a series of anonymous Christmas cards which appear to be from an old friend of hers who recently died. Drama, starring Tatyana Ali and Bill Cobbs. (2013)

WEDNESDAY
A Snow Globe Christmas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A cynical TV executive accidentally knocks herself out while railing against the disappointments of her life. She wakes up to find herself in another world, where she is married with two children. As she comes to realise she is not dreaming, she must decide which life she wants to live. Festive fantasy, starring Alicia Witt, Donald Faison and Christina Milian. (2013)

Boyhood, Friday, Channel 4, 12.05am

THURSDAY
Wild Card, Channel 5, 9pm
Las Vegas bodyguard Nick Wild finds himself dealing with more than just his gambling problem after he takes revenge on the criminal who attacked his friend, little realising that the thug in question is the son of a mob boss. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham, Michael Angarano and Milo Ventimiglia. (2015)

FRIDAY
Boyhood, Channel 4, 12.05am
A boy goes through a series of changes in his life, beginning as a six-year-old facing a reunion with his estranged father and a move to a new house. As he grows up, the youngster deals with further upheavals that shape his view of the world. Richard Linklater's drama filmed over the course of 12 years, starring Ellar Coltrane, Patricia Arquette and Ethan Hawke. (2014)

Mary serves up a tasty treat in her new culinary show

Channel 4's version of The Great British Bake Off has now aired, and most people would probably declare it to be a success – even if new judge Prue Leith did stumble at the final hurdle by accidentally tweeting the identity of the winner hours before the last episode aired.

But despite the revamped Bake Off's continuing popularity, it seems unlikely that original presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins and judge Mary Berry are regretting not following the show to its new home – for a start, they simply haven't had time.

Mel and Sue have been busy hosting everything from Saturday night singing contests to travelogues about the Ganges, while Mary brought us Mary Berry Everyday and is due to judge a new televised contest, provisionally titled Britain's Best Cook. She's also set to be reunited with her old Bake Off friends for the festive special Mary, Mel and Sue's Surprise Party, which sees the trio coming together to throw a bash for the regulars at a South Wales community centre.

But before that, Mary is hosting the new series Country House Secrets, which sees her exploring some of the nation's most beloved stately homes – and finding out more about the food that has been served there.

In the process, she will learn about life both upstairs and downstairs, meeting the house's present-day custodians and the dedicated staff as she explores the kitchens, gardens and private rooms, many of which are usually off-limits to visitors.

And what she learns will inspire her to make her own special recipes, celebrating the heritage and legacy of the houses.

Mary Berry says: "I am so excited to be doing this new series with the BBC – I have always had an enquiring mind so I know I will be inspired by the Great Houses we visit."

Tanya Shaw, Managing Director of Shine TV added: "I can't think of anyone more perfect to tell the stories of these great households and to bring us such a unique insight into Britain's rich culinary past."

In the opening edition, Mary heads to Highclere Castle in Hampshire, which is home to the 8th Earl and Countess of Carnarvon and is now most famous as the real-life Downton Abbey – it was the main location for the acclaimed period drama. However, it's also renowned as a setting for some of the most lavish and influential weekend parties in history.

As well as learning more about the property's illustrious past, Mary also discovers what it takes to keep such a grand home like this going in today's world as she talks to the family, staff and the estate's loyal group of gamekeepers.

Then Mary takes to the kitchen to prepare an elaborate menu for a grand finale dinner, including raspberry tartlets and a gamekeeper's stew. Surely even Maggie Smith's imperious Dowager Countess wouldn't be able to find fault with that.

Mary Berry's Country House Secrets, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Would I Lie to You?
BBC1, 8.30pm
New series. Comedian and writer David Baddiel, former MP and Strictly Come Dancing 2016 star Ed Balls, stand-up and actress Jo Brand and ex-Pussycat Doll and Celebrity MasterChef 2015 winner Kimberly Wyatt join host Rob Brydon and captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack as the comedy panel show returns for its 11th series. As usual, the participants aim to hoodwink their opponents with absurd facts and plausible lies about themselves in a bid to secure a team victory and the dubious honour of being dubbed Rob's liar of the week.

TUESDAY
The Martin Lewis Money Show Live
ITV, 8pm
Interest rates went up recently for the first time in an age, so it's rather timely that Martin Lewis is back with a live, two-hour special, in which he will no doubt address some of the issues that may cause for consumers. Credit card lending, energy prices and inflation are already on the up, and so the financial expert is determined to keep their impact on the general public down with some top tips to keep cash in your wallet. Christmas is looming too, which can be a difficult time for those already struggling to make ends meet. There's advice on where to find the best bargains and Black Friday offers that should enable us to snap up cheap gifts and gadgets. Plus, consumers from across the country are being invited to pitch their questions to Lewis live on the night.

WEDNESDAY
The Secret Life of the Zoo
Channel 4, 8pm
The keepers try to work out why male red panda Jung is losing weight, with a full medical examination scheduled after a special diet fails to solve the problem. West African mandrill JC is being challenged for his dominant position by his sons Ludo and Jareth and, while JC is taken for some health checks, Ludo gets 'over-friendly' with his dad's girlfriend. Tempers start to fray among Chester Zoo's Humboldt penguin colony during the annual moult – can youngsters Frazzle and Munch avoid being picked on by the grown-ups?

THURSDAY
The Search for a Miracle Cure
Channel 4, 10pm
Documentary following leading lawyer Mark Lewis, the man who fought the News of the World in the phone hacking scandal, as he joins a clinical trial that might offer a breakthrough cure for multiple sclerosis. He learned he had the condition at the age of 25 but his high-profile battle with the tabloids has exacerbated his symptoms. Now 50, he travels to Hadassah University Medical Centre in Jerusalem, where the work being done could have a positive impact on neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast, Friday, Channel 4, 8pm

FRIDAY
The World's Greatest Bridges
Channel 5, 8pm
The latest episode of this series should be even more insightful than usual, as engineer Rob Bell isn't just examining two bridges – he also meets the man who designed them, world-renowned British architect Norman Foster. Bell begins by learning more about the world's tallest bridge, the Millau Viaduct, which rises 343m over the river Tarn in southern France. It also has a claim to be the most beautiful bridge in the world and has become a tourist attraction in its own right, but it was also designed to be functional, taking traffic across the 2.5 km wide Tarn gorge. Bell discovers that at the same time that Foster was working on the viaduct, he was also creating London's Millennium Bridge, which caused controversy when it was found to wobble.

Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Guest Simon Pegg joins Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty as they rustle up dishes for the weekend from their cafe on Southend Pier. On the menu is a melt-in-the mouth lamb tagine, inspired by Simon's time spent filming in Morocco. Jamie prepares an indulgent Provencal bake, made by layering pancakes and packing them full of smoked ham and oozy cheese. This series sees Jimmy use his DIY skills to create imaginative solutions to food dilemmas, starting with a Korean barbecue served to a wheelchair rugby team from an innovative picnic table. Plus, the boys champion for more free-range duck farming in the UK.

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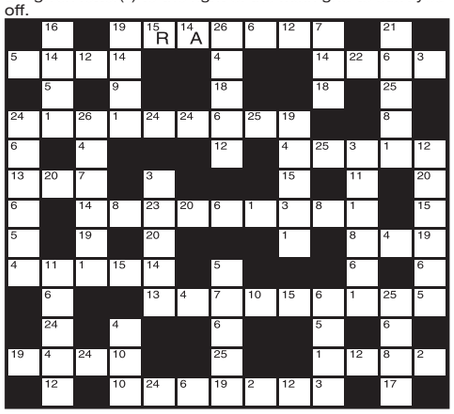
BRAIN GYM

No.456

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



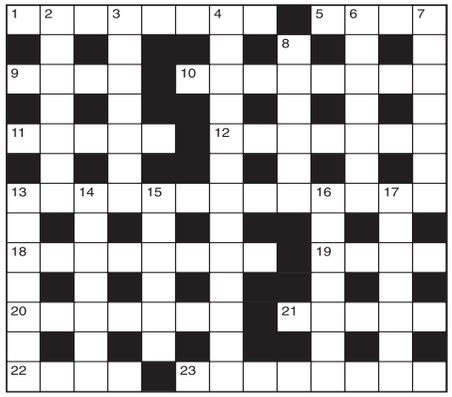
1	14 A
2	15 R
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	H	J	W	D	I	N	Z	E	T	L	P	K
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	A	Q	C	F	X	Y	B	V	M	U	O	G

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. In rear adaptation telephoned the one making adaptations (8)
5. Pass round nothing lacking warmth (4)
9. A sign that cattiness brings pleasure (4)
10. Its trend is loud and harsh (8)
11. Conservatively correct? (5)
12. Substitute wrong parcel with letter (7)
13. Mood and tense as changed in moderation (13)
18. It is clear father backs what he is (8)
19. Aim and score (4)
20. Make Peter go as person with a patron (7)
21. He is a dunderhead, and greedy with it (5)
22. Libertine in the garden? (4)
23. Not the status of the sitter, presumably (8)

Down

2. Having a regular system is the oriental way (7)
3. Balloon provides ventilation on vessel (7)
4. Go in with wrong main intent for hospitality (13)
6. Work in theatre (7)
7. Correspondence from landlords? (7)
8. It's easy to make bad lies about politician (6)
13. Hunter takes up role in repertory (7)
14. It gets the cartographer in the library (7)
15. Got paid for not quite being scholarly? (6)
16. Grading a skinflint (7)
17. Is not at stop on the line (7)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Hallow (8)
5. Sour (4)
9. Cowshed (4)
10. Mishap (8)
11. Spruce (5)
12. Special gifts (7)
13. Pun (4,4,5)
18. Curiosity (8)
19. Slender (4)
20. Slavery (7)
21. Dense (5)
22. Vivacity (4)
23. Amaze (8)

Down

2. Bottomless (7)
3. Distinctly (7)
4. Waggishness (13)
6. Detergent (7)
7. Loathes (7)
8. Head cushion (6)
13. Flexible (7)
14. Feeler (7)
15. Tumult (6)
16. Obsolete (7)
17. Gods (7)

Sudoku

	3	5				8	6	
		9		2		5		
1			5		3			9
			9		2			
		7	6		4	3		
4			3		5			6
5			2		9			3
		4				1		
	6	3			8	9	4	

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	9	2	3	6	8	4	1
4	3	6	9	8	1	2	5	7
1	2	8	5	7	4	9	6	3
3	9	2	1	4	7	5	8	6
8	1	7	6	5	9	4	3	2
6	4	5	8	2	3	7	1	9
7	6	1	4	9	8	3	2	5
2	8	3	7	1	5	6	9	4
9	5	4	3	6	2	1	7	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Alpaca; 4 Screws; 9 Well-conducted; 10 Looking; 11 Habit; 12 Stops; 14 Astir; 18 Oiled; 19 Pitcher; 21 National dress; 22 Steaks; 23 Slates. Down: 1 As well; 2 Pull out all the; 3 Cacti; 5 Couches; 6 Establishment; 7 Sedate; 8 Inigo; 13 Paddock; 15 Points; 16 Spray; 17 Crises; 20 Tidal.
QUICK - Across: 1 Chintz; 4 Hamper; 9 Superstitious; 10 Amiable; 11 Carol; 12 Stick; 14 Verse; 18 Rifle; 19 Replied; 21 Inappropriate; 22 Extend; 23 Desert. Down: 1 Casual; 2 In point of fact; 3 Throb; 5 Article; 6 Procrastinate; 7 Result; 8 Strew; 13 Cheapen; 15 Arrive; 16 Prior; 17 Advent; 20 Purge.

Quiz

1. Which scientist was US ambassador to France 1776-85?
2. What is the capital of Luxembourg?
3. Who became director of the FBI in 1924?
4. Of what nationality was the astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus?
5. Of what was Goebbels minister in the Third Reich?
6. Who made the golden calf?
7. Which animal's fur is called musquash?
8. For how many matches was John Toshack Wales's manager?
9. In which US state is Palo Alto?
10. Who wrote The Mill on the Floss in 1860?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Honshu; 2 Simon Bolivar; 3 General de Gaulle; 4 Frankenstein; 5 Elijah; 6 Salmon; 7 Wolverhampton Wanderers; 8 Norns; 9 China; 10 Jutland.

Niner: CONSULATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

25971 gives a Surrey town,
29628 gives a second Surrey town,
12893641 gives a Surrey village.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Spice is right at roadside curry

A GOOD curry in a friendly and relaxed setting, which doesn't break the bank, is something many families look for when eating out.

So if you fancy authentic Indian food served in a traditional pub setting, The Garden Bar is definitely worth a visit.

The bar and restaurant, on the Birmingham New Road, in Wolverhampton, has not been open long but – when we visited – was already very busy.

Having driven past on numerous occasions on the way to work, I decided to finally try it out with my wife Kelly and our three-year-old daughter, Annabelle.

We were given a lovely little table in the corner, which looked out on to the very impressive beer garden.

The restaurant layout was modern, with neatly arranged tables alongside smaller, more private areas for couples. Large parties and families could easily be catered for, and there were two large-screen TVs showing sport.

Spice up your life – curry with naan bread and rice

A sweet treat – one of the luxurious puddings

VARIETY

When it came to the meal, orders were placed at the bar with customers quoting a table number.

The starters included a wide variety of vegetarian, and meaty options. Many veggies I know would have been delighted with the wide selection.

We went for both veggie and meat options with the aloo tikka chaat, which was potatoes served with chickpea masala, and lollipop chicken, served with a homemade dip.

The main course options included staple Indian favourites such as jalfrezi, madras, saag, bhuna, vindaloo and balti. There was also an extensive house specials menu, which included a wide range of veggie, meat and fish dishes. The biryanis were also classed specials and looked very tasty. I chose a different house special, north Indian chilli garlic chicken, tempered with fresh chillis and garlic.

If the starter had been a little bit bigger than expected, the mains were the perfect size and came served in a traditional metal curry bowl.

It wasn't the hottest curry I'd ever tasted but it was delightful to get the odd extra kick from the fresh chillis, which had been chopped up and sprinkled over the chicken. The chicken was tender and there was plenty of the sauce to mop up the egg rice and keema naan we shared. Kelly opted for the rahra gosht, diced spring lamb and mince cooked together. Again, the texture of the sauce was really thick and tasty. I wouldn't like to guess what spices were used in my wife's dish but it's safe to say it was loaded with flavour – perhaps one to avoid for those who like a lighter curry, but we loved it.

If curry isn't for you and you fancy something a bit more like pub grub, the menu also included pub favourites like gammon, beefburgers and steaks.

Having looked at the more traditional children's menu, we decided to try something different with Annabelle – who is generally an adventurous eater – and ordered a mild chicken korma. After mixing it with the egg fried rice, she lapped up it all.

There were, however, plenty of lovely sweets to choose from for those with a sweet tooth, including the gajar ka halwa, which is an Indian carrot pudding.

The drinks, appetiser, starters, mains and puddings all came in at around £50, so if you fancy a nice meal out in a welcoming environment that isn't going to break the bank, you could do a lot worse than trying out The Garden Bar. JAMES DRIVER-FISHER

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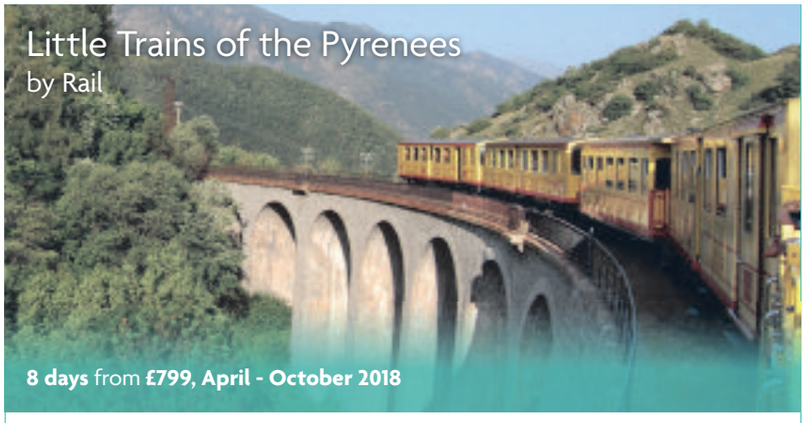

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Three-bedroomed home has been much improved

Being extended and stylish, 38 The Parade, Dudley, has been tremendously enhanced, modernised and improved.

Positioned opposite parkland, and having a 20ft 7in dining kitchen, it is for sale through Taylors at £190,000. Having gas central heating and double glazing, this home is also close to schools and day-to-day amenities.

Its excellent accommodation includes an imposing reception hall, a tremendous through lounge/living room with a bay and patio doors out to the garden, extended a 'hub of the house' 20ft7in dining kitchen with patio doors, a utility room and a fitted cloakroom/WC.

There are three good-sized bedrooms with extensive storage and an impressive reappointed contemporary bathroom.

Outside is block paved parking for three vehicles, a sheltered and secluded rear garden with a patio area and side access.

In more detail the reception hall has laminate flooring and substantial under-stairs storage lockers. The superb through living room has distinctive 'Burlington' coving and a walk-in bay window to the front.

The extended L-shaped dining kitchen is the real 'hub of the house'. It has tiled splash-backs, a halogen induction electric hob with a fan assisted electric oven below and a filter hood above, plumbing for a dishwasher and laminate floor.

The dining room section to the rear has patio doors with blinds, an extensive range of shelving and laminate flooring. The utility room has plumbing for a washing machine and the cloakroom/WC is nearby.

Bedroom one overlooks the front and has laminate flooring. Bedroom two has part painted wainscoting, laminate flooring and and a heated orthopaedic water bed available by separate negotiations. Bedroom three has views over the garden and laminate flooring. The impressive re-appointed part tiled bathroom has a white contemporary suite .

Outside the sun-catcher garden has decking in a gravel surround, a further gravel path, lawn, established shrubs and plants, tap and a metal store.

DUDLEY £190,000

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KEY FEATURES

- Modernised & improved
- Opposite parkland
- Stunning & extended
- Large dining kitchen
- 3 good sized bedrooms

Ideal family property is very well presented

DUDLEY
£329,950

A wonderfully presented detached property in Hillmeads Drive, Dudley, lies in the popular Oakham area of town.

It is for sale through Taylors at £329,950.

This good-sized family home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a spacious entrance hall, a well-appointed living room, a dining room, a breakfast kitchen, a study, a guest WC, a utility, four bedrooms, an en-suite to the master, a family bathroom, a fantastic enclosed rear garden, a double garage and there is a driveway to the front.

Contact the selling agents, Taylors, at their local branch office on 01902 880888.

A delightful modern semi is nice and contemporary

DUDLEY
£149,950 <<<

Being immaculately presented throughout, this delightful modern three-bedroomed semi-detached house in St Edmund Close, Dudley, is for sale at offers over £149,950 through loveyourpostcode.com

Featuring a contemporary theme throughout, it occupies a corner plot on a modern development.

The kitchen/diner has ample space for entertaining. The lounge has clean, modern décor and patio doors leading into the garden. A downstairs W/C completes this floor.

The first bedroom is a double bedroom. The second bedroom is a further double. The third bedroom is a good single. Finally the tidy family bathroom suite comes with a shower over the bath.

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SEDGLEY, Gospel End Road

Enviably situated on corner plot in favoured district adjacent to open fields & with good distant views; an appreciably SPACIOUS. gas centrally heated, double glazed detached family residence offering TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL briefly comprising; entrance vestibule, hall, cloakroom, 19' through lounge, separate dining room, kitchen, pantry. Gallery landing. FOUR bedrooms, bathroom. Gardens to front, side & rear, Double garage. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £360,000

KINGSWINFORD, Oakfield Avenue

This STUNNING, THREE BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME comprises: Stylish Hall, Attractive Lounge, Pleasant Dining Room, BEAUTIFUL WELL FITTED KITCHEN, Guests W.C, Utility, WELL APPOINTED BATHROOM, Garage & BEAUTIFULLY LANDSCAPED REAR GARDEN. EPC E

New price — Offers in the Region Of £265,000

WOODCROSS, Beacon Street

A fantastically presented intermediate property located in the popular Woodcross area. Benefiting from entrance porch and hall, this fine home also comprises of living room, attractive dining-kitchen, conservatory, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, centrally heated and double glazed, enclosed landscaped rear garden and driveway with parking for multiple vehicles to front and en-bloc garage to rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC : TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £144,950

WALL HEATH, Maidensbridge Drive

Enjoying a superb cul-de-sac position, this VERY WELL PRESENTED DETACHED BUNGALOW is well placed for village shops offering a GENEROUS and WELL PROPORTIONED layout which includes TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS. With FRONT/SIDE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a private, sunny and level rear garden. EPC D

£249,950

SEDGLEY, Dudley Road (Off Algar Grange)

NO UPWARD CHAIN. REFURBISHED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached dormer bungalow within level walking distance of village. 'Transformed' recently to an exemplary 'AS NEW' specification comprising entrance vestibule, hall, lounge, dining room (occasional 3rd bedroom), bedroom, bathroom, refitted kitchen. To first floor large bedroom & shower room. Parking, rear garden. EPC:C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £219,950

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT! Construction has now commenced on a gas centrally heated, double glazed DETACHED BUNGALOW, short walk from major bus routes with the accommodation to include; hall, store, lounge/dining room (patio doors out to garden), kitchen (with various integrated appliances) two bedrooms (one with built in wardrobes), bathroom, garage, parking for 2 vehicles, garden. Plans available (by appointment) - at Sedgley Office. SAP: TBA

Offers in the region of £210,000

KINGSWINFORD, Charterfield Drive

A DECEPTIVE and IMPRESSIVE MODERN LINK DETACHED HOUSE which offers a GENEROUS and VERY WELL PRESENTED layout of accommodation which includes TWO LARGE RECEPTION ROOM and TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS. With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a beautifully laid out rear garden. EPC D

Now available — £209,950

COSELEY, Mount Pleasant Street

Fantastically proportioned pre-war link-detached property which benefits from gas central heating & double glazing. This family home also boasts large entrance hall, well-appointed living room , spacious dining room, kitchen-diner, two cellar rooms, FOUR BEDROOMS, large bathroom, good-sized garden, guest W/C and integral garage. VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL! EPC:E SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £200,000, NOW £195,000

DUDLEY, The Parade

EXTENDED & STYLISH! Improved, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached opposite park close to many amenities. Stunning accommodation includes; hall, through living room with patio doors to garden, extended (sideways & to rear) 'hub of the house' 20'7" dining kitchen with patio doors to garden, utility, cloakroom. Three bedrooms with extensive storage, impressive bathroom, with bath & separate 'monsoon' shower. Parking for three vehicles, garden with patio. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

PRICE: £190,000

COSELEY, Chad Road, Bramford estate

NO UPWARD CHAIN Superbly presented, conscientiously maintained semi-detached property upon the extremely popular BRAMFORD ESTATE. Benefiting from gas central heating & double glazing this EXTENDED family home also benefits from, porch, hall, through lounge -diner, fitted-kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, garage, drive and garden to front with attractive enclosed rear garden. ●●●MINE SEARCH AVAILABLE●●● EPC: C SEDGLEY

PRICE: £135,000

DUDLEY, Himley Road

●●MINE SEARCH AVAILABLE●● Deceptively spacious TRADITIONAL terraced property offers huge living space over three storeys. As well as benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing and retaining many original features, it also boasts reception hall, living room, dining room, extended refitted kitchen, guest W/C (with potential for wet room), THREE BEDROOMS, loft, family bathroom, cellar, rear garden with ample parking. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £129,950

COSELEY, Rainbow Street

A conveniently positioned semi-detached property located in the popular Coseley area briefly comprising; entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, THREE BEDROOMS, large frontage with potential for parking and enclosed rear garden. The property is also offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: F SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950

UPPER GORNAL, Nethergate

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No upward chain — £95,000

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It has an entrance hall, a cloakroom/WC, an extended kitchen, sitting room, first floor landing, three bedrooms, a bathroom, garage, gardens and parking.

COSELEY
£167,950

It lies in a pleasant location convenient for a wide range of amenities together with access to Coseley, Wolverhampton, Sedgley, Dudley and surrounding centres.

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off. The lounge has a bay window, a fireplace with a tiled insert and hearth housing a living flame-effect gas fire.

The extended kitchen includes a Belfast sink, quarry tiled floor, plumbing for a washing machine and an integrated dishwasher.

For further information, or to book that all important viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact Jackson Lile & Close on 01902 712812 or visit www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk

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MOTORING

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET

Kia's updated flagship premium Sorento SUV

The new Kia Sorento has been put to the test on South Korean roads by a small group of UK motoring journalists – Carmel Stewart was one of them.

Driving a Kia in Korea is a sure-fire way to fit in with the thousands of drivers rushing in and out of Seoul every day, as the vast majority show great brand loyalty by driving home-grown vehicles.

Many commuters favour the Kia Ray – a boxy little commuter special made solely for the Korean market. At the other end of the spectrum is the flagship Sorento SUV which puts Kia into the premium sector alongside the likes of the Audi Q5 and the Volvo XC60.

Incarnations

First introduced here in 2002, it does not have a huge road presence in the UK but is, nevertheless, always on the verge of breaking into the big time. A quality seven-seater, all-wheel-drive with a 2,500kg towing capacity, it is well able to hold its own among the Volvos and Land Rovers on the school run and rural rough stuff.

It has gone through a few incarnations over the years with the third-generation model being added in 2014. Each time sales have far exceeded expectations – in 2002 50,000 were sold worldwide. The most recent version has topped 1.5m.

The new Sorento is what is called a 'product enhancement model'. It is based on the 2014 version but with a host of changes – so many, in fact, that no-one would have objected to it being designated the 4th generation.

As with all Kias, its production has been overseen by two key players. Designer and president, Peter Schreyer, joined Kia in 2006 from Audi where he was responsible for the sleek and instantly recognisable Audi TT, among other vehicles. His designs have established a Kia family look and a more European appeal.

Engineering expert, Albert Biermann, who joined the company from BMW in 2015, has added a more European set-up in terms of suspension, steering, and handling. As the man behind the German carmaker's M models, he knows what suits our quirky, uneven road surfaces.

The net result is a well put together, good looking, stylish SUV with new grille, bumpers, lighting clusters and alloys, a spacious, comfortable interior, uncluttered dash and flexible seating which offers plenty of space for seven average sized occupants. Six-footers may struggle to get comfortable in the rearmost seats which pull out from the floor.

There's a more European set-up in terms of suspension, steering and handling

The excellent sat nav displayed on an eight-inch screen has clear maps and all the information required. It will only confound if set to Korean as this includes a warning baby squeak should you attempt to sneak over the designation speed limit.

Given that UK vehicles will all give directions in English, the way forward should be clear and squeak free.

In keeping with other premium brands, Kia has incorporated hi-tech connectivity into the system so that full smartphone integration is achieved via Apple CarPlay and Android Auto with a wireless smartphone charger for charging while on the move.

Engine and transmission options are very straightforward – a 2.2litre diesel engine, married to either a six-speed manual transmission or an ultra-smooth eight-speed automatic which offers a choice of driving modes – Eco, Comfort, Sport and Smart – which drivers can select to suit their driving style and the conditions. Sorting out which is best for you is a matter of trial and error as changes to the steering response and power input are very subtle.

The real changes come with the new technologies which Kia has bunched together under its Drive Wise driver assistance package and include driver attention warning, which alerts the driver when he or she shows signs of drowsiness, plus lane keep assist and full LED headlamps with dynamic bending lights.

The 2018 Sorento, Mark 3:1 will be offered with trims KX 1, 2, plus the sporty GT Line and GT Line S replacing 3 and 4. The GT versions will inevitably up the ante both in price and aesthetics, adding LED fog lights, red brake callipers, a more prominent sill step and dual chrome exhaust. Inside, classy leather quilted seat and embroidered GT Line emblems together with satin chrome highlights add to the premium feel.

The new Sorento is due in the UK towards the end of this year. Pricing is expected to be in the £30,000 to £40,000 bracket if previous levels are anything to go by.

Plan to increase maximum sentences welcomed by GEM

Road safety organisation GEM Motoring Assist has welcomed the news that the Ministry of Justice to increase the maximum sentence for motorists who have caused death by dangerous driving.

The new measures mean these drivers could face the same length of sentence as those convicted of manslaughter, with maximum penalties raised from 14 years to life.

This is a crucial move to rid the UK's roads of their most dangerous and persistent offenders, according to GEM. Furthermore, it demonstrates a Government commitment to protecting vulnerable road users.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth said: "We support these new measures. There should be no place on our roads for people who have shown a flagrant disregard for the rules and cause death because they were using a mobile phone, speeding, over the drink-drive limit or impaired by drugs.

"We are all familiar with the tragic examples where a killer driver is convicted but receives only a short sentence or even just a driving ban and a fine. Too often victims and their families have been let down, even after having their lives shattered by the selfish and reckless acts of an irresponsible driver.

"We believe the tougher sentences will help bring an end to these situations. After all, a culpable death should be treated as manslaughter, however it may be caused.

"Using our roads is not an automatic right for an individual, and must always come with responsibilities. We believe that this tougher sentencing for drivers who kill will prove a worthwhile deterrent and help bring about a safer road environment for everyone."

Karoq gets top safety score of five stars in Euro NCAP test

The Škoda Karoq is the Czech car manufacturer's latest model to receive a five-star safety rating from Euro NCAP, making the Karoq one of the safest compact SUVs on the road today.

"We are delighted that the new Škoda Karoq has also passed the Euro NCAP tests with flying colours," says Škoda board member for technical development, Christian Strube. "We are constantly working on optimising the passive and active safety of our models and developing occupant and pedestrian protection, as well as assistance systems. Numerous driver assistance systems are installed in the Karoq that would otherwise only be found in higher vehicle classes," says Strube.

Euro NCAP awarded the occupant protection of adult passengers an excellent 93 per cent. In addition, Euro NCAP highlighted the protection of the cervical spine in rear-end collisions. The compact SUV's emergency braking system worked reliably at low urban speeds and prevented almost all collisions. Euro NCAP also awarded the full score for the protection of pedestrians' legs. The compact SUV also protected pedestrians' heads well in the event of in a collision.

Following the Škoda Kodiaq, the Škoda Karoq is the brand's second vehicle to receive a five-star rating in 2017. Škoda is currently one of the few car manufacturers whose entire model range has received a five-star rating in the Euro NCAP test.

The Karoq owes its outstanding passive safety to its high torsional rigidity, generous deformation zones in the extremely secure cabin and the use of high-strength and ultra-high-strength steels, for example in the side beams.

In addition, the compact SUV has seven standard airbags: driver and passenger airbags, side airbags, head airbags and knee airbag. Child seats can be fixed in using Top-Tether or the Isofix system, also available for the front passenger seat. In the event of a rear-end collision, specially designed headrests reduce the risk of whiplash for the driver and front passenger. The proactive occupant protection system also tightens front seatbelts in a collision and closes open windows including the sunroof.

The Karoq has a large number of cameras as well as radar and sensor-based driver assistance systems. The front radar assistant, which includes city emergency braking with person recognition, helps to prevent accidents with pedestrians. Manoeuvre assist and pulling-away assist help the driver in reduced visibility and warn of hidden dangers.

Other safety features on board include an adaptive-distance assistant, a lane-keeping, camera-based traffic sign recognition, an emergency call function, a traffic jam assistant and fatigue detection.

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, November 16, 2017

Car for all-weathers and it's so safe

By Sharon Walters

Subaru has always been a safe bet for people who simply have to go places in any weather – and ideal for where I live down a rough track.

And the latest Levorg estate, a tiny seller here since its introduction in 2015, got a safety system earlier this year that makes it even safer. It uses a couple of screen mounted cameras to scan the road ahead.

But let's look at the rest of the car first. It is visually and technically unchanged and comes in just one well-equipped version for £29,680.

That buys the same 1.6 litre 168bhp flat-four petrol engine and permanent all-wheel drive as before. And, sitting behind that lie-flat engine is a gearbox without any gears, or more accurately, only one, which varies itself as you push the throttle harder. That, theoretically at least, ought to mean the engine is always performing at its most economical. We'll see.

Holding all the mechanical bits together is an estate car body that has more space inside for people and luggage than the last and late lamented Legacy Tourer.

Out on a mix of roads, the Levorg's turbocharged engine felt stronger than its quoted output and the CVT transmission avoided the soaring revs that used to mark keen use of similar systems.

In fact, on smoothish surface the Levorg cracks along with enthusiasm. Rougher roads produced an unwelcome pattering from the wheels but the car never felt less than firmly glued to the road. Figures claimed are 130mph top speed or 0-62mph dash in 8.9 seconds. The test car revealed 32.5 mpg on the computer on my very mixed trip – the official figure is 39.8mpg and in normal use you can never reach those official fgiures. The car's 164g/km CO2 output attracts £500 road tax in the first year and £140 after.

There's a rear facing radar adding extra safety to the car

There's plenty of equipment including a reversing camera

The estate car body of the Subaru Legacy has plenty of space inside for people and luggage

And now those stereo cameras scanning the way ahead. Called EyeSight, Subaru says it's a superior system to the radar, microwave or single cameras of rival manufacturers and helped towards the Levorg's five star rating in the official Euro crash test.

At speeds up to 28mph the cameras can kick in the brakes if you're not paying attention and stop the car before it hits anything – be it vehicle, pedestrian or cyclist. Above that it will lessen the impact of an accident. Clever indeed.

Adaptive cruise control comes as standard, keeping a set distance from the vehicle in front and there's also a visual and audible warning if the car leaves its lane without signalling – a feature that can be switched off. There's still more on safety; with a rear facing radar telling you if a vehicle is approaching in your mirror blind spot or passing behind as you reverse from a parking space. And if you select drive while parked, instead of reverse the engine cuts power if there's anything in front.

The package makes the Levorg a very safe car to travel in. It is also well-equipped with kit including a reversing camera, infotainment system with navigation and six-speakers, leather trim and heated front seats, (electrically adjusted for the driver) and the already mentioned adaptive cruise control.

If you need a bit of a load lugger and have to get out and about when the weather is not kind, the Levorg fits the bill

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Competitive servicing

Commercial feature

Stourbridge Motor House, T Wall, Halesowen Motor House & Dudley Motor Company, collectively known as the Black Country Dealers are part of a family-run business that has been trading in the West Midlands for over 65 years.

The group has invested heavily over the last two years, totally refurbishing its showrooms, service and waiting areas. Vauxhall is happy too, as the investment ensures the company matches approved standards it sets.

Additionally the dealers pride themselves on their dedicated service centres, which offers drivers and businesses in the area affordable service pricing for all makes of vehicles, plus the availability of Class 7 MoT ramps at Dudley Motor Company and T Wall, Kingswinford.

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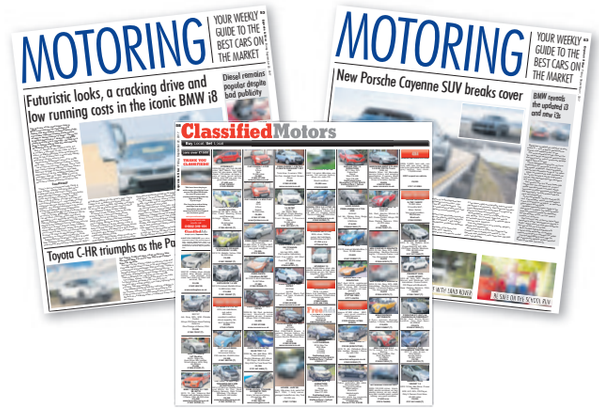

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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, November 16, 2017

There's a hint of ruggedness if you add on traction and hill descent control

Latest contender for small SUV stardom from Citroën

By Ian Donaldson

Another day, another compact SUV appears on the scene. Suddenly, the world is full of little cars that look as though they could climb a (small) mountain or ford a (shallow) river.

Latest contender for small SUV stardom is the Citroën C3 Aircross, a replacement for the C3 Picasso now that small MPV people carriers are out of favour with buyers, who apparently regard them as too practical looking. So they're turning in their millions to the SUV, where building them taller and adding obvious body protection armour releases the inner Outback hero in us all.

The car joins the Citroën range alongside the cheaper C3 hatchback which has become the biggest seller in the UK range since entering showrooms in January. C3 Aircross prices start at £13,995 and top out at £19,720 for a car that its maker hopes will sell strongly on style and comfort, both attributes of Citroëns from before your grandfather was a boy.

A bit more ground clearance over the non-Aircross version of C3 and the availability of traction control and hill descent control as a £400 extra on some versions give the right models a hint of off-road ruggedness.

But the success of the this Spanish-built C3 Aircross will depend much more on how well potential buyers are tempted by the way they can personalise their cars inside and out.

There's plenty of legroom in the back

They might fancy the Hype Mistral design theme (£750) with its premium feel leather and satin chrome surrounds for the air vents. Or the tan coloured finish of the half-leather seats in the Hype Colorado design (also £750) could win the style battle.

Outside, there are similar choices to be made, from roof and door mirrors in different colours to the rest of the car or perhaps a breathing blue or spicy orange paint job for £520.

Not that Citroën has forgotten the practicalities, reckoning the newcomer has the most rear leg room in its class and the biggest boot too. Add a family pack (from £350) and the rear bench slides to prioritise leg or luggage room and the front passenger seat folds flat for that Ikea purchase moment.

Citroën must be confident buyers will be happy to spend more on speccing their C3 Aircrosses; the less obviously stylish C3 hatch has already seen most purchasers splashing out on two-tone paint and picking the dearer versions as a base. Which means the entry level C3 Aircross with 82 horsepower and 116g/km of CO2 will attract few buyers in Touch trim, with Feel and Flair offerings taking the majority of sales.

There are four petrol engines to choose from, all 1.2 litres but with power outputs of 82, 110, 120 and 130 horsepower. Official fuel consumption ranges from 55.4mpg to 56.5mpg and CO2 of 115/116g/km. Two diesels complete the engine choices, both 1560cc and with 99 or 120bhp and up to 70.6mpg and 104g/km.

Every C3 Aircross comes with cruise control, air conditioning and DAB radio but you need to move up a grade to the Feel for alloy wheels, space saver wheel, halogen headlights, rear electric windows and a seven inch touchscreen.

Take the top Flair grade and the goodies count mounts, with auto air con, sat nav and keyless entry and starting as highlights. Android Auto and Apple CarPlay feature in Feel and Flair models, along with Bluetooth.

Out on the road in a 110 horsepower petrol version the C3 Aircross felt immediately comfortable, thanks both to a seat with generous proportions and a ride the right side of firm. Our test run showed 38.1mpg on the trip computer, not an outstanding figure from a car that needed working quite hard through the gears to extract performance. A 110 diesel did much better, with a lively feel and 55.3mpg showing over the same route as the petrol version.

Both felt nicely special inside and both had a touchscreen that needed prodding to change cabin temperature when an old fashioned twist knob would do the job with less fiddling around.

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MG LAUNCHES NEW MG ZS TO GREAT ACCLAIM

MG Motor UK has launched the latest addition to its product range, the MG ZS. Praised by consumers and the automotive community alike for its premium quality, high-specification and outstanding value, the Compact-SUV is now available from MG dealers around the UK.

Available from just £12,495, the MG ZS also comes with an industry-topping 7 year/80,000 mile warranty. Completely transferable to any new owner before the limit is reached; the highly competitive package also guarantees any genuine replacement MG parts for the remainder of the agreement. An extension of the manufacturer warranty, this gives customers complete peace of mind.

Three power-assisted steering modes also come as standard on the Excite and Exclusive models. While Urban steering offers a lighter and quicker response at low speeds and when parking, the Dynamic mode is designed to increase the steering effort, deliver a higher damping effect and increase the centre definition at medium and high vehicle speeds.

An industry-leading 8" touch sensitive infotainment screen is supported by DAB radio (on the Exclusive and Excite models), while Bluetooth hands-free and remote central locking is available across the range. Cruise control is also included, while air conditioning comes as standard on Excite and Exclusive models, and Satellite Navigation and a rear camera are standard on the Exclusive variant.

MG also stands out from the crowd with its offer of Apple CarPlay on the MG ZS Excite and Exclusive variants at no extra cost. The safer way to use your iPhone in the car, CarPlay takes the things you want to do with your iPhone while driving and puts them on the car's massive 8" touchscreen in-built display.

Available in Arctic White, with optional Laser Blue, Black Pearl, Cosmic Silver and Spiced Orange, as well as a specially-developed Dynamic Red, the all new Compact-SUV has been favourably compared to premium models produced by competitors.

With one of the most generous shoulder, leg and headroom capacities in its segment, the MG ZS offers a premium travelling experience for driver and passenger. An incredible 448 litres of boot capacity – plus a split-level boot – provides plenty of room for prams, luggage, outdoor leisure equipment or the weekly shop, while keen cyclists and adventure sports fans will benefit from numerous compartments throughout the car which provide additional storage.

Matthew Cheyne, Head of Sales and Marketing at MG Motor UK, said: "The MG ZS is MG putting its money where its mouth is. With the introduction of a 7 year warranty, we are making a clear statement of intent about the quality of our design, engineering and manufacturing. Benefiting from global design expertise, but reengineered specifically for UK roads, we are confident that the MG ZS will prove exceptionally popular. With its unbeatable warranty, compelling price and high-quality spec, we expect the MG ZS to be a strong seller."

To find out more, or to book a test drive of the MG ZS, visit: mg.co.uk/mg-zs

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MGZS fuel consumption: URBAN 41.0 mpg | 6.9 l/100km, EXTRA URBAN 58.9 mpg | 4.8 l/100km, COMBINED 49.6 mpg | 5.7 l/100km, CO2 Emissions: 129g/km.

Model shown: MG ZS Exclusive manual with Tri Coat paint (optional extra £695) in Dynamic Red at £16,190 OTR or £215.87 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. Offer shown available on MG Exclusive manual with solid paint at £15,495 OTR or £199 a month for a 60 month conditional sale agreement. OTR prices include VAT where applicable, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and 12 months 'Vehicle Excise Duty'. Fuel consumption values shown are based on official EU test figures and are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not be representative of actual driving results. Offer terms and conditions apply:

*0% APR: Conditional sale. 0% APR available on all MG ZS models until 31.12.2017. A minimum deposit of 20% applies. 0% is not in conjunction with any other offer. Finance by MG Financial Services, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff CF15 7YT, subject to status, availability and terms and conditions. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at participating dealers. See your local dealer or visit mg.co.uk/offers for details.

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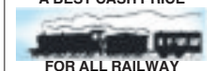

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It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

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6 Property

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NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

A COMFORTABLE FURNISHED room for single, mature, working person, CH, TV, cleaning, linen, all bills £275pcm, no DSS, Stafford Road, Wton. 07957 595840.

ONE BED furnished flat, kitchen, bathroom, parking, gardens. one mile to W-ton. 01902 883037.

Accommodation To Let

SINGLE FLAT suit mature Gent, refurbished throughout, all up to spec, Gornal area. £90 p/w. Call 0771 5603357.

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4 Pets & Animals

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Pets Corner

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Takes in relinquished dogs from owners, all areas (if they are vet checked/up to date with jabs.)
Donations of dog food, toys, bedding and vet bills always appreciated.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

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Business Opportunities

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7 Jobs

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ADVANCED ACCOUNTANCY MIDLANDS

required for a rapidly expanding Accountancy Practice in Kingswinford. The ideal candidate will ideally have a broad range of Accountancy skills and a previous track record within a similar finance background, be confident working independently and as part of a team.

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- Sage Payroll experience would be a distinct advantage, together with understanding of Auto Enrolment legislation.
- Assist practice Accountant and handle all necessary tasks outlined

The successful candidate would:
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- Have a proactive attitude and "can do" mentality

Please email your CV to marina@advancedaccountancy.co.uk

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Kidderminster DY10 1XA
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King Charles I School is a well-resourced 11-18 school with a sixth form. Our students are enthusiastic, talented and keen to succeed. If you are too, we would like to hear from you. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an Enhanced Disclosure via the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Further information and an application form are available on the school website (www.kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk). The completed form should be emailed or posted to the school by 10.00am on Tuesday 21st November. We intend to interview on Friday 24th November.

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EXPERIENCED BRICK LAYER requires any type of brick work. 07341 021774.

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The role is part time, hours to be agreed. Salary for this role is £10 per hour
the successful applicant will:
* have a driving licence
* be IT literate
* be able to set menus
* order and monitor supplies
* have food safety and handling certifications
* cook a range of food options
If you are passionate about food, experienced, reliable, hard working, enthusiastic and fully qualified please send your CV to:
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8 Motoring

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2010, 29,500 Miles, black, electric windows, air bag, fsh, MoT, auto, central locking, pas, diesel, tax, Stereo, wheelchair access at rear
£3,850
01384370462

FORD FIESTA ZEETC
2007, TDCi 64,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, FSH, alarm long Mot.
Excellent condition.
£1,995
01902 744023

FORD FIESTA GHIA
1.4, 80,600 miles, Ford Service History, electric windows, elelctric mirror, MoT Februrary 2018, leather trim, 1 owner, nice condition.
£1,600 ono.
07958 400177.

LOOK

MINI COOPER 1.6
Mint condition inside and out, 2004, low mileage, MoT 2018, black, service history, alloys, blacka nd red sports seats.
£2,450.
07946 383970.

MINI ONE
1.4 engine ideal first car 2008, 127,000 Miles, Cream , electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, alarm, long MoT, central locking, pas, Stereo, CD
£1,950
07538 201939

4X4

NISSAN NAVARA PICK UP
57 reg.
Electric blue.
Long MoT.
Runs great.
Very tidy body.
Chassis passed by Nissan.
Used daily.
£3,800.
01952 582318 / 07974 031454.

PEUGEOT 206CC ALLURE
2005, 55 plate 4,600 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, full service history alarm, MoT. Lovely condition.
£1,495.
01902 744023.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6SE
2010, 45,600 miles, petrol, silver, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, long MoT, running lights, auto dim rear mirror.
£4,375.
01902 339471.

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL CORSA
2013, 5-dr, silver, 1.2 petrol, mileage 31,700, MoT Feb 2018, excellent condition.
£4,150. o.n.o
01746 789551.
(Bridgnorth)

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
1.9CDTi Design Model
55 reg, 106,000 miles only, 150bhp, electric windows, electric mirrors, half leather, black, alloys, black, been remapped, 10 months MoT, well locked after, lots of history,
£1,750.
07544 370350

VOLKSWAGEN FOX 1.2
Three door.
Hatchback.
2010 (60 reg).
Red. Petrol.
Manual. MoT November 2018.
Insurance Group 1.
66,000 miles.
Two keys.
Excellent condition.
£2,195 ono.
07871 521216.

AUTOMATIC

VOLVO S40
2007, 57 plate, 30,000 miles, silver, EW, AC, MoT June 2018, automatic, CL, CC.
Geuine reason for sale.
£3,750.
07538 651604.

Cars Under £1500

BMW COMPACT 1999. 64,000 Miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, fsh, MoT, long MoT, one owner £950 ono 07980 379267.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO
2007,(57) 71,000 Miles s/h, new MoT, lovely condition.
£1,200 ono
07572 554829.

BARGAIN

FORD FOCUS
1.8 DIESEL
2005, 114k miles, 3dr, silver, 12 months MoT, service history, reliable, good condition.
Excellent value
£1,150.
07979 472572.

GOOD RUNNER

HYUNDAI i30 COMFORT 1.6 CRDi ESTATE
2009, 54,125 miles, grey, alloy wheels, front fog lights, radio / CD / MP3, USB Ipod and Aux connectivity and power sockets, MoT till March.
£2,450.
01384 291964. 07505 912159.

LANDROVER FREELANDER
2002 TD4 ES
DIESEL AUTO
Very good condition. 90,700mls, serviced regularly, Dark Red Met, leather Interior, recent new tyres, MoT, same owner for 13years.
£1,250.
07758 746263.

LOOK

MGB GT
1972, for restoration.
£575
MGB ROADSTER
1972 for restoration including new body panels.
£1,475
07828 196505.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

PEUGEOT 206
WS ESTATE 1400
2004.
Very reliable.
Very clean and Tidy.
Good runner.
MoT'd.
Quick sale £695ono.
01902 862610.

RENAULT SCENIC DTi 1.5.
2008.
83,000 miles,
Silver,
Good condition,
Full MoT.
£1,250 ono.
07816 435725.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

ROVER 45 CONNOISSEUR
2003, 70,000 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, long MoT, auto, metallic paint, central locking, pas, sunroof
£750
07703 460744.

BARGAIN

VW GOLF GTi
Mark 3
1997, 2.0, 5dr hatchback, low mileage, long MoT, CD player, garage maintained, appreciating classic,
£850 ono.
07716 376510.

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WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.
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AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £20 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

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QUAD BIKE
AEON CROSSLAND 320CC
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Automatic.
Road legal. Only 2,180 miles.
Excellent condition.
£2,500.
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9 Local Information

Public Notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience youmay fax any advertising requirements to
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(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

General

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Price includes transfer fee.
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07463 224073.

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A happy new year to all Ladies.
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ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

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A kind lady, to share my lonely nights and empty days.
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Wolverhampton area.
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Guest speaker Maggie Alphonsi

Sports Personality Acelya Toprak

Some of the award winners at the ceremony at the Copthorne Hotel

Abbie Hinton from the School of the Year

Aspiring Athlete winner Freya Robson

Opening winner Greg Southall

Power of Sport winner Natty Blewitt

Coach of the Year Wayne McDonald and Diane Davies, Express & Star

Region's sports stars honoured at ceremony

INSPIRATIONAL tales of determination, grit and teamwork emerged as the winners were revealed at this year's Black Country Sport and Physical Activity Awards.

Ten awards were handed out on the night recognising the achievements and contributions of athletes, coaches, sport clubs and volunteers.

A total of 35 finalists were in the running for the awards, run by Active Black Country.

Former women's England Rugby player Maggie Alphonsi MBE was special guest and gave an inspirational speech about her journey from being born with a clubfoot to lifting the Rugby Union World Cup in 2014.

ACB vice chairman Amanda Tomlinson kicked off the ceremony, at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill. She said: "The Black Country has got a wide and diverse history. We are defined by our people.

"The levels of deprivation in the Black Country are significant and physical inactivity is highest here across the region. People are not getting the benefits of sport, which is quite worrying and significant. But sport has got the power to change this."

Project

The first award of the night went to Dudley Disability Swimming Project for Sportivate Project of the Decade. The group runs swimming sessions for young disabled people, where more than 20 attend each week. Funding ran out over a year ago but organisers have been able to keep the project afloat.

Next up was Tividale Football Academy which won Community Club of the Year. The club was praised for forging strong links with local schools and the police and helping to change young people's lives for good through the power of football.

Tividale has 350 youngsters in its ranks and more than 40 volunteers across 24 teams.

Keith Thompson, from the club, said: "It is a fantastic achievement, for the volunteers, players and everybody else involved with the club."

School of the Year was won by the Federation of Abbey Infant & Abbey Junior Schools in Sandwell with representative Abbie Hinton picking up the award on its behalf. The school was praised for its PE curriculum which helped children with their moral, spiritual and cultural development. Abbie Hinton, from the school, said it was a great achievement to win the award.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Ben Lammas

"The Black Country has got a wide and diverse history. We are defined by our people."

The Community Impact Award went to Benson Community Project in Smethwick. The initiative has helped to engage more than 1,000 residents in different activities, boost the relationship between police and youths and help young people get into work and join football teams.

Paul Landucci said: "I'm astonished and amazed we have won this award. Smethwick itself should be winning this award. It's about people who love what they do."

The Coach of the Year award went to judo teacher Wayne McDonald. Wayne has taught judo for 13 years and recently developed his coaching skills by teaching visually impaired youngsters at the annual British Blind Sport Day. He was praised for being a positive role model who is always willing to help. Wayne trains beginners at school and community clubs and coaches at competition up and down the country.

The Aspiring Talent award went to Freya Robson, who is a second-dan black belt in karate. Freya has won three medals for England and recently achieved gold in the under-21 kata competition at the Wado European Championships in Paris.

Practising karate has helped give her social skills and the ability to focus and she now teaches karate after recently qualifying as a junior coach.

She said: "There is a lot more that goes into sport than just training and competition. There is a lot more people that have helped me than they realise."

Community Rangers FC picked up the Satellite Club of the Year award as part of an initiative called 'Football for All'.

Rangers set up a satellite club, with Sporting Equals, at Dudley Goals Soccer Centre to work with hard to reach groups from mosques and schools. The project has seen an increase of youngsters and their families get on board which has resulted in a base of volunteers.

The Power of Sport award went to Natty Blewitt, who is bound to a wheelchair. But Natty, who found being active a challenge, joined a 5km runners group for beginners.

She found the route challenging but showed great resilience and identified routes more suitable. Now her group has moved to flatter ground to enable her and others in wheelchairs to take part.

Performing

She said: "I'm really astonished to win the award. All of this has made a big change to my life. Just a few years ago I weighed over 20 stone but I have since lost nine stone."

Acelya Toprak won Sports Personality of the Year. She has been performing at the highest level of judo for more than 10 years and is now moving up to senior level. She has won three gold medals, two silver and one bronze competing at European events, all while studying for a degree.

The Unsung Hero award went to John Totney and Martin Floyd, who in the past two years have tallied up 1,400 hours, or 58 days, of voluntary work supporting disabled people at Portway Lifestyle Centre in Oldbury.

John, now retired, has been in the role since 2013. Martin, who was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus and is in a wheelchair, became a volunteer after visiting the gym. They each give 20 hours of their time a week.

The final award of the night was the Elvis Gordon Chair's Recognition Award which went to Black Country Talent Match, a project which helps disadvantaged young people into work and use sport and physical activity as one of the routes.

Sport

Maggie may help to inspire region's sporting heroes

Page 47

Glassboys go through, but ref under fire

St Neots Town 2 Stourbridge 3

STOURBRIDGE fought hard to win this second qualifying round tie and a trip to Bradford Park Avenue on December 2.

However, Stuart Pierpoint and Aaron Forde picked up bookings which will see two key players out of the Glassboys next league game at Shae Lane. And boss Gary Hackett was far from happy with the referee. "It was a competitive game spoiled by the referee who seemed to have no control, and made some poor decisions for both sides," he said.

In front of a crowd of 323, all the goals were scored in the second half, with three coming in the opening five minutes.

St Neots hit Stourbridge just a minute after the break when a neat flick by Tom Meechan found Dion Sembie-Ferris whose shot bounced over Matt Gould and into the net. Almost immediately the Glassboys were on terms when a corner from Tom Tonks was headed in by Leon Broadhurst.

Aris Christophorou was brought down on 54 minutes in the area and Luke Benbow gave Stourbridge the lead from the spot, his third goal in two games.

Benbow, looking fully fit now after his recent move from Solihull, shot wide on 70 but then produced a clever short free kick six minutes later into the path of substitute Josh Green whose excellent shot flew in. Jack Bradshaw bundled in a scrappy goal on 82 minutes.

Midfielder Will Marsh, signed on loan from AFC Telford on Friday made his debut as a second half substitute.

Point in safe hands on Platt's 100th Yeltz appearance

Halesowen Town 0 Shaw Lane AFC 0

HALESOWEN settled for a hard-earned point in a stalemate against a strong Shaw Lane outfit.

The high-flying Ducks started on the front foot, fresh from their recent FA Cup exploits, as Alexander Byrne's 25-yard free-kick was tipped over by home keeper Dan Platt after just two minutes. Platt continued to keep the visitors at bay on his 100th Yeltz appearance.

But Halesowen gradually weathered the storm and had their first chance after 18 minutes when Dan Udoh's low shot was kept out by goalkeeper Jonathon Stewart. Udoh then laid the ball off for John McAtee, but his low shot was saved at the foot of his post by Stewart in the 35th minute.

Udoh set Alexander Woodhouse free to cross for Bradley Lewis to head just high early in the second half and McAtee scuffed a 69th minute shot wide.

With five minutes remaining, a low shot from Halesowen's Enoch Ekongo was gathered by Stewart but home defender Marcus Poscha cleared off the line in the final minute.

Harris races to hat-trick of awards

Luke Harris – award treble

LUKE Harris was the most decorated rider at Cradley's End of Season Presentation.

The 18-year-old walked away with three trophies to cap off a fine year for the youngster.

Harris received the Wayne Garratt Memorial Trophy for Most Improved Rider, the Max Cartwright Memorial Shield and comfortably secured the Most Bonus Points award.

Harris said: "It's been a great year and to have three awards to show for it feels brilliant.

"I've got my head down this year, I've shown everyone what I can actually do and it's nice to see the fans appreciate it."

While Harris claimed the most awards, it was skipper Tom Perry who received the most prestigious trophy available. Club supporters voted Perry as their rider of the year as he picked up the Ivor Hughes Memorial Trophy.

"I had to get a round of drinks in because I bet someone that Danny Ayres would win it no problem," Perry joked.

"But on a serious note it's a great honour to be Cradley's rider of the season and it means a lot to be voted for it by the fans."

TREVIS TREBLE IN DK ROMP

DK 59 Melbourne 0

DK secured their first clean sheet of the season. And their defensive determination was typified by a double tackle in the DK 22 in the closing stages which saw two defenders lying injured.

One, Ryan Smitheman was able to leave the ground unassisted.

Luke Trevis darted into the clubhouse corner to open the scoring, Duncan Tompkins narrowly failed with the conversion from the touch line, but added the extras to a Connah Jones try.

DK's third try followed a yellow card for Dan Hawkins. It came from Trevis again, with Tompkins adding the extras.

Smitheman crossed the line for DK's fourth try and the bonus point, with Tompkins' trusty boot converting. Try number five came from Matt Grove and a converted Nic Adams effort made it 38-0 at half-time.

Command

It took only 10 minutes of the second half for DK to add to their tally, Pete Griffiths touching down, and the try was converted.

DK were now in command of the game and a Stef Shillingford and Mitch Grealey combined to put Trevis in for a hat-trick try, with a conversion from Tompkins.

Next, DK were back on the counter attack with some good play down their right wing that saw Matt Grove round things off, only to see the referee indicate a forward pass.

The final try for DK came with the ball along the line to Smitheman with hat-trick hero Trevis outside him, a sublime dummy, saw the cover go for the flying wing and Smitheman in unopposed with Duncan on target the final score was 59-0.

DK were returning to action tonight (Thursday) against Old Halesonians in the North Midlands Plate at Heathbook under the lights, 7.45pm kick off.

Sailing stalwarts are honoured

The late David Harris and wife Mary have been recognised for their sailing commitment

A SAILING veteran will collect a top award – while her husband is posthumously honoured with the same accolade.

Mary and David Harris, of Himley Hall Sailing Club, were recognised for more than 40 years of dedication and commitment to the sport with an RYA Lifetime Commitment Award. The honour will be presented at a ceremony in London on November 24.

David sadly died in July, aged 83, a day after learning he and Mary had won the award.

The couple joined Himley Hall in 1970, and had an immeasurable impact. David co-founded the club's training section and spent more than 40 years as principal instructor. Meanwhile, as social secretary for 25 years, Mary organised club events and catering. Her charity fundraisers have also raised substantial funds for the RNLI. In 2013 the couple won an Old Pulteney Maritime Heroes Award, picking up £1,000, which they immediately donated back to the club to help improve training and classroom facilities.

David taught at Bingley Secondary Modern, Highfields Comprehensive and Bilston College of Further Education as well as co-founding the Wolverhampton Astronomical Society.

Mary, 85, said: "After David retired as senior instructor he became Life President of the club's training section. When we found out we had won this award we were so thrilled and humbled that our years of service had been recognised. You don't do it for glory but to help in the community."

First cross country run of campaign

THE weekend marked the start of the cross country season for Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

The men mustered 14 runners for their first run around a muddy field in the Birmingham League Second Division. Hosted by Telford AC the first event was four laps around a reasonably flat course at Lilleshall, with one slight incline and a couple of boggy patches. The blue hoops battled against Cannock & Stafford, Halesowen AC and the hosts but finished the day 15th in the league.

Steve Holdcroft was 29th in 32.26, Stuart Perkins finished in 66th in 33.34, Darran Bishop was 131st in 35.57, Gary Bonner was 155th in 36.27, Mark Gatenby was 160th in 36.34 and Dave Norman was 162nd in 36.43 for the A team. Mark Homer was first back for the Bs in 177th in 37.36, Simon Blizzard was 203rd in 38.49, Simon Hughes was 210th in 39.07, Pete Hood was 223rd in 40.16, Sergej Ljubovnikov was 225th in 40.20, Steve Parr was 227th in 40.25 and Andy Weaver finished in 236th in 41.15 and Dave Hickman making his club debut over the country was 251st in 42.50.

The ladies travelled to Coundon Park in Coventry for the Midlands Women's Cross Country League Division 2, rubbing shoulders with the Tipton Harriers, Telford AC, Coventry Godiva and Birchfield Harriers. DK were only able to field three runners. Lucy Elwell finished in 97th in 35.09, Jacqui Elson Whittaker was 123rd on 37.19 and Jane Campbell was 139th in 38.40.

Yozza's Grand Slam hopes are battered

TIPTON darts star Jamie Hughes saw his Grand Slam hopes take a battering after two group stage defeats.

'Yozza' lost to Raymond van Barneveld before then being whitewashed 5-0 by Irish youngster Steve Lennon.

"I've been practising well but it's not been working on stage," said Hughes, who was meeting Gerwyn Price in his final group game on Tuesday.

"I tried my best but it just isn't happening for me. I didn't settle until the third or fourth leg and it was too late by then. A lot of darts weren't badly thrown but they just landed on the wrong side of a wire."

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.

Thursday, November 16, 2017

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